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PAGES 10-11

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MONKEY TROUBLE

Yasmin Nakhuda hugs her 12-year-old son, Misha, outside the Animal Services offices in Toronto on Wednesday as she rallies support for the return of her monkey. Darwin was seized earlier this month after he was found wandering at an Ikea parking lot. There was more media at the event than there were protesters. Story, page 8. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teachers are winning PR battle: Poll

Dispute with Liberals. One-day strikes not hurting teachers much because of advance notice to parents

Nearly half of Ontarians — 49 per cent — support the teachers in the dispute with the Liberal government, a new poll suggests. About a third — 35 per cent — back the government, the Forum Research survey shows.

Another 12 per cent endorse neither side and four per cent are unsure.

Right way to strike?

"This has been a very Canadian type of protest: 'In three days time, we're going to go out for one day.' That's all worked to the teachers' advantage."

Forum Research president Lorne Bozinoff

The results come as Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario members hold rotating strikes across the province to protest Bill 115, the legislation that imposes a two-year wage freeze and curbs rights and benefits.

"The teachers have done a really great job of positioning this as a collective bargaining issue. The teachers are getting their message out," Forum president Lorne Bozinoff said Wednesday.

"The government has been trying to low-bridge this whole issue and they've not been antagonizing the teachers, but by doing that they haven't really put their own case forward," said Bozinoff. "So there's been nothing to refute whatever the teachers have been saying."

Forum polled 990 people on Monday using interactive voice-response telephone technology.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Django not easy to watch

Even Quentin Tarantino was brought to tears by some scenes in his film that show slaves being brutalized PAGE 40

Rapists deserve death: Activists

Near-fatal gang rape of student in India sparks calls for swift and stringent punishment against those who attack women PAGE 12

Love for Adele still strong

Singer didn't release a new album this year, but is still named Entertainer of the Year by The Associated Press PAGE 48

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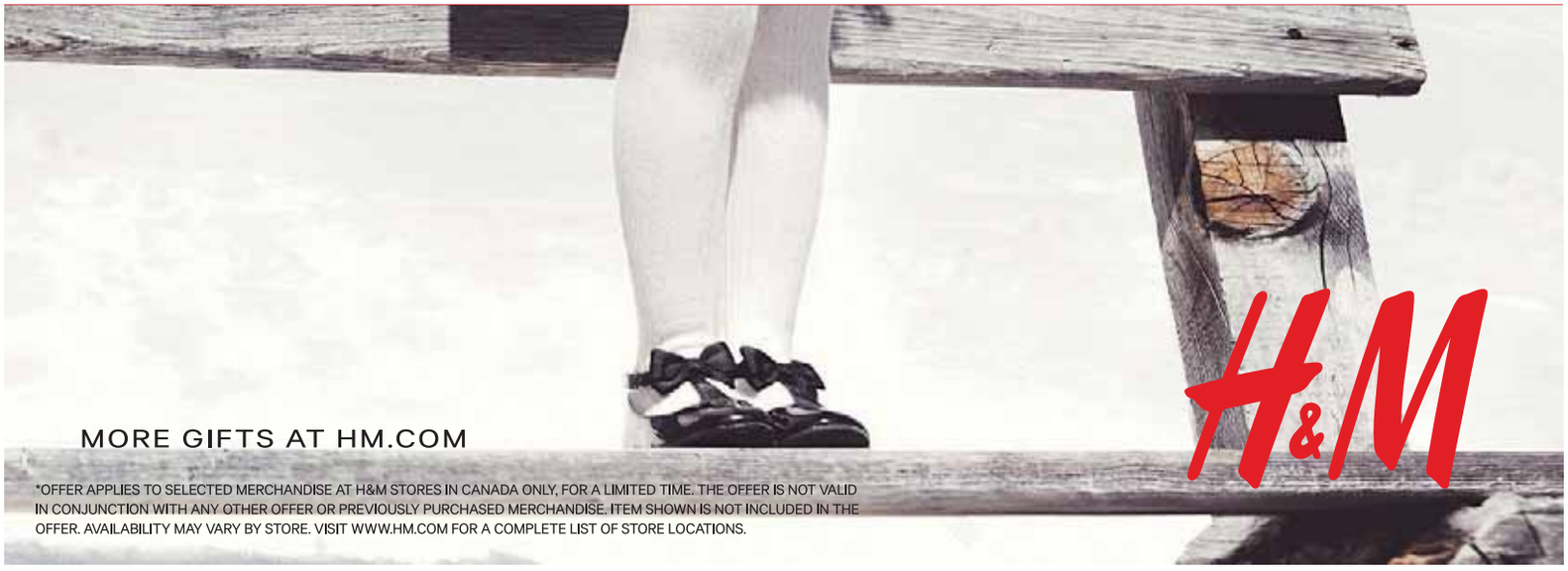

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PETA, ALF in Toronto take opposite strategies in fight

Anti-fur. PETA plans to hand out old furs to homeless people, while militant ALF vandalized stores

The fur is flying among animal-rights activists in Toronto, as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals stages a fur coat giveaway days after the Animal Liberation Front vandalized two downtown stores.

PETA will distribute 30 fur coats to women from four homeless shelters at John Innes Community Centre Thursday, hoping to send the message that only Toronto's most needy citizens should ever wear fur. "We can't bring the animals back, but we can bring a little warmth to people in desperate need," said Emily Lavender of PETA.

PETA receives hundreds of donated coats every year from people who have had a change of heart about fur. Their so-called "fur kitchens" have been held in the U.S. since 1988, but Thursday's giveaway marks a first in Canada.

But the event comes on the heels of an attack on two stores that sell fur and leather. Four Seasons Fur and T.O. Leather Fashions Ltd. — within a three-block radius near Spadina Avenue and Adelaide Street W. — both had a foul-smelling chemical sprayed into their stores early Tuesday. "This is what you get for profiting off of violence and suffering. This was your first attack but will not be your last," an anonymous ALF member wrote in an email to activist magazine Bite Back.

ALF and PETA are not affiliated, and Lavender insisted that her organization does not condone illegal or violent tactics. "The animal rights movement is trying to end violence, but within any movement there will be factions that engage in extremist activity," she said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Merchandise unaffected

Vengeance fail?

Toros Torossian, owner of T.O. Fashions Ltd., doesn't understand why ALF would target his store. He sells sheepskin and leather, not fur. He discovered a horrible, rotten-egg smell and a clear liquid covering the floor Tuesday morning. Security video taken at 1:30 a.m. shows a woman in a hoodie spraying a substance through a crack in the door.

None of his merchandise was damaged, despite ALF's claim in the email that the chemicals "will destroy anything they come into contact with."

PETA members often wear donated fur coats during anti-fur demonstrations. The group is known for its shocking campaigns, including lettuce-bikini protests and people lying in fake human-sized leg traps on the sidewalk. COURTESY OF PETA

Camaros to be built in Michigan, not Oshawa

Ken Lewenza, left, Canadian Auto Workers Union national president, and Chris Buckley, CAW Local 222 president, react to a General Motors announcement Wednesday that the next generation Camaro line will be built in Michigan instead of Oshawa. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Less than a week before Christmas, workers at General Motors Canada were angered to learn they're losing future production of the sporty Camaro to a U.S. plant.

The Detroit-based auto maker announced Wednesday the next generation Chevrolet Camaro will be built in Lansing, Mich., instead of Oshawa.

The exact timing and impact on jobs wasn't immediately available, a spokesperson for GM Canada said.

The Canadian Auto Workers union estimated it could mean a loss of 1,000 direct jobs starting in late 2015 unless GM replaces the Camaro with another product. "General Motors has once again shown a complete and utter disregard for its workers and also Canadians in general, whose tax dollars kept the company out of bankruptcy," said CAW national president Ken Lewenza.

Canadian politicians said they would hold GM to the commitments the car company made in 2009 when the federal and Ontario governments provided a $13.7 billion bailout to the auto industry.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Labour rates in Detroit

- Three plants in Canada are on average $34 an hour, compared to $28 in unionized car plants in the U.S., said Tony Faria, a professor with the University of Windsor.
- The move comes a week after Michigan enacted "right to work" legislation, which bans mandatory union membership.

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Fraud

'Psychic' charged with new counts

A "psychic" arrested for allegedly defrauding a woman out of $14,000 also allegedly defrauded a couple in Montreal the day after he was arrested.

Police arrested Gustavo Valencia Gomez on Nov. 27 and charged him with fraud and pretending to practice witchcraft, for allegedly convincing a woman she was cursed and charging her $14,000 to remove it. On Nov. 28, Gomez defrauded an elderly couple out of $13,000, police allege. Police also allege he defrauded a Hamilton couple by charging $7,800 to remove a "curse." JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Gustavo V. Gomez
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Oshawa

Former shelter worker charged with sexual assault

A man who worked and volunteered at an Oshawa shelter has been charged with sexual assault in several alleged incidents dating back up to 15 years. Durham police say a number of women recently came forward with the allegations, prompting a "thorough and historical" investigation. Police say the alleged incidents took place while the women used the Gate 3:16 shelter.

Earl Sanderson, 67, of Scugog Township, is charged with four counts of sexual assault.

Police say he was involved with the shelter up until this year and his duties included teaching and counselling.

They're asking anyone with information to contact them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Less-private phone booth

Call home from a giant snow globe

Homesick for the holidays? The cure may be a free phone call away.

Mobilicity invites all Torontonians to call loved ones across Canada and abroad for free — inside a giant 24-foot snow globe.

Friday, a crowd of international students and Canadians with loved ones abroad will be lining up at Yonge-Dundas Square to enter the snow globe and make a free long-distance call anywhere in the world.

Mobilicity's Anthony Booth will officially launch the event by triggering snow to fall inside the giant globe.

A recent survey found that 73 per cent said if they can't be with friends or family over the holidays, hearing their voices over the telephone is the next best thing. METRO

Pimp gets 1 year after guilty plea

Assault, procuring. Markham man lured a woman into becoming a stripper and prostitute

A Markham man has pleaded guilty to living off the avails of a woman he met at a Mississauga strip club.

Jamal Forde-Beckles must serve a further four months and 21 days after Ontario Superior Court Justice Jane Kelly sentenced him to a year in jail Wednesday, deducting time he has already served.

"You're a very young man, 24, so very young and you've got a lot of living ahead of you," Kelly said, adding that he seems to have learned his lesson.

She accepted a joint sentencing submission from defence lawyer Luc Leclair and prosecutor Emma Haydon.

While at an Elm Drive apartment in Mississauga, he beat the woman with a belt with a metal buckle, and threw her into the shower, turning on the hot, then the cold water, and threatening to kill her.

She finally got out of the shower and threw herself on the bed, crying. She then went to police.

Leclair told the judge Forde-Beckles, whose brother, a bank worker, was in court, has good family support. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Background

Jamal Forde-Beckles met the victim at a strip club in August 2010 and convinced her to become a stripper, enticing her with the money she would make. She soon started performing extras, including $100 for oral sex and was hauling in between $500 and $1,000 a night, according to an agreed statement of facts.

- **The victim also worked in a massage parlour, performing sexual services there.**

What woman wouldn't want a shark in her living room?

Adam Shearer stands in his living room with his eight-foot mounted wall shark that he just sold on Craigslist. His grandfather caught the shark in Florida before Adam was born. When Shearer got engaged, the interior design scheme of the living room had one big change. The shark had to go. It was bought by a chef from Welland, who was fascinated with his grandfather's story. LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shelter would be just ducky

All you want for Christmas is a domestic duck?

With five days to go before the gift-giving holiday, the SPCA has announced a special deal on a flock of domestic ducks rescued several weeks ago from a Markham park, waiving the $25-per-bird adoption fee in a bid to find the ducks a home.

It was about a year ago that residents living near Markham's Milne Dam Conservation Park began to notice an ever-expanding flock surrounding the neighbourhood, unable to feed themselves and in need of shelter.

It's unclear how the ducks ended up at the park, but a pair of birdwatchers from Scarborough witnessed a man dumping about a dozen birds in the park in early November. City officials have since speculated that the duck dump may be related to a religious "animal release" practice.

In a move to protect the birds from starvation and freezing temperatures, the SPCA rounded up 36 ducks this month, temporarily housing them in a trailer on SPCA property until permanent homes are found. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Pet duck for Christmas? CONTRIBUTED

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Obama wants ‘real progress, right now’

Gun control. President balances 2nd amendment rights and steady wave of killings in proactive address

No excuses

“The fact that this problem is complex can no longer be an excuse for doing nothing.”
Barack Obama

U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday demanded “concrete proposals” on curbing gun violence that he could send to Congress no later than January — an urgent effort to build on the growing political consensus over gun restrictions following last week’s massacre of children at a Connecticut school.

It was a tough new tone for the president, whose first four years were largely quiet on the issue amid widespread political reluctance to tackle a powerful gun-rights lobby. But emotions have been high after the gunman in Friday’s shooting used a semi-automatic rifle to kill 20 young children and six adults at the school, after killing his mother at home.

“This time, the words need to lead to action,” Obama said. He said he will push legislation “without delay” and urged Congress to hold votes on the bill next year.

“The fact that we can’t prevent every act of violence doesn’t mean we can’t steadily reduce the violence,” Obama said.

The policy process Obama was announcing Wednesday was expected to include input from the departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services. The Department of Homeland Security is also expected to play a key role. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama stands with Vice-President Joe Biden as he makes a statement Wednesday at the White House. Biden, a longtime gun-control advocate, will be spearheading efforts for a new gun policy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Funeral processions continue in Newtown

Firefighters wait for a procession at the main intersection in the village of Newtown, Conn., on Wednesday, as they pay respects to Daniel Gerard Barden, one of the students killed during the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting. The small, quiet town has seen gridlock traffic caused by funeral processions, as well as the large number of national and international media covering the aftermath of the shooting. Barden, 7, was killed when the gunman, Adam Lanza, walked into the school last Friday and opened fire, killing 26 people, including 20 children, before killing himself.

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going too far? Bulletproof backpack maker’s sales up 300%

Parents reeling in the wake of the Connecticut school shooting are fuelling sales of armoured backpacks for children, as firearms enthusiasts stock up on assault rifles nationwide amid fears of imminent gun control measures.

U.S. armour manufacturer Amendment II’s sales of children backpacks and armoured inserts are up 300 per cent. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A children’s backpack with an anti-ballistic insert is shot with a 9 mm pistol. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guns in Canada. Tories repeal gun-show rules

The Conservative government has repealed federal gun show regulations, on the advice of the same controversial advisory committee the prime minister recently rebuked.

The changes kill a set of rules that were introduced by the Liberals in 1998, but never brought into force after years of deferrals.

The regulations would have required the sponsor of a gun show to notify police and the chief firearms officer of the province before an event, and to ensure the security and safety of the location and the guns.

The government says it consulted Public Safety Minister Vic Toews’ Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee, which felt the vast majority already follow the rules.

Earlier this month, Prime Minister Stephen Harper rejected the committee’s other recommendations to loosen certain gun control laws.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Smarten up. IQ tests are just too simple by half, researcher warns

A new study released Wednesday suggests IQ tests aren't all they're cracked up to be.

"I think IQ tests are a massive over-simplification," said Adam Hampshire, one-half of the team of researchers who debunked the IQ myth.

"I would be incredibly skeptical of their results."

Traditional IQ tests favour one type of intelligence, said Hampshire. But people can be smart in multiple ways.

Hampshire and his partner Adrian Owen, from Western University's Brain and Mind Institute, created a new test that was able to gauge a person's intelligence in a variety of streams.

It was posted online and gathered tens of thousands of hits in just a few weeks.

"The day the initial trial went live, thousands of people signed on and they broke it," said Hampshire. "People started emailing their scores and putting them on Facebook, challenging their friends and it went viral.

"It was exhilarating and remarkably stressful."

The massive response gave the duo a broad sample of information about people from around the world aged 12 to 70.

The study found that there are three main types of intelligence. One relates to short-term memory, another deals with reason and logic, and the last shows a person's strength at variable testing.

AMANDA GRANT/ FOR METRO IN LONDON

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The average person scores 70 to 130 on an intelligence quotient test.

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A new-year bow tie awaits Ikea monkey

Little primate's a viral star. Yasmin Nakhuda says Darwin was taken from her illegally and she's facing a court fight on Thursday

Yasmin Nakhuda leads a protest Wednesday at Toronto Animal Services at 1300 Sheppard Ave. W. in a bid to get her pet monkey Darwin back. Darwin became an international viral sensation after being found in an Ikea parking lot. TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Yasmin Nakhuda has everything ready for her little monkey to come home:

A tiny Santa Claus suit for Christmas, a bow tie for New Year's, and a cottage rented in Kawartha Lakes, where it's not yet illegal to own a monkey.

On Thursday she'll be asking the court to return Darwin swiftly.

On Dec. 9, Darwin was found wandering in a north Toronto Ikea parking lot.

A photo of him in a faux-shearling coat soon made its way to Twitter and from there spread around the world.

It even landed Darwin a nod from The Guardian newspaper in its 10 fashion moments of the year.

Bylaw officials asked Nakhuda to surrender the animal and fined her $240 under the Toronto Municipal Code for keeping a prohibited animal.

The opposing side in her court case is requesting an adjournment, something that would give Kawartha Lakes time to enact an exotic-animals ban already in the pipeline.

Speaking outside Toronto Animal Services, Nakhuda talked about the trauma.

"Unless you've owned a primate, you cannot understand what it is to lose one," said Nakhuda, who works as a real-estate lawyer.

About 30 supporters, many friends and family members, attended a protest Wednesday at Toronto Animal Services' 1300 Sheppard Ave. W. location.

Nakhuda's children — 16-year-old Omar and 12-year-old Misha — held signs that featured a picture of Darwin behind bars and read: "Free Darwin now!"

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Recovering

Snowboarder lost for two days

A 33-year-old snowboarder from Ottawa is recovering after being rescued from a wilderness area north of Vancouver where he was stranded for two days.

Sebastien Boucher got lost Sunday after straying out of bounds near the Cypress Mountain ski area.

Initial attempts to find him were hampered by poor weather and the risk of avalanches.

NEWS 1130/CKNW

We're not so jolly

Happy? You're in Latin America

The world's happiest people aren't in Qatar, the richest country by most measures. They aren't in Japan, the nation with the highest life expectancy. Canada doesn't make the top 10.

A poll released Wednesday of nearly 150,000 people around the world says seven of the world's 10 countries with the most upbeat attitudes are in Latin America.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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How will you spend your last night on Earth?

"I wouldn't do anything differently. I just don't see the point. I'm not a crazy guy to begin with."

Evaan Kheraj, Vancouver

"I would probably spend it with my family and friends. I don't really know what else to say."

Diane Leng, Calgary

"I can't say what I'd really do because it's not appropriate to print in a newspaper."

Luke Kellener, Fernie, B.C.

"I'm a space fan, so I would like to ... look up at the outer world with (my son) one last time."

Barry Obondo, Edmonton

"I would get a plane to Australia .... though I probably wouldn't get there in 24 hours."

Elaine Fitzpatrick, Saskatoon

"I would live it up with all my friends and family and I wouldn't even think about tomorrow."

Jaci Youngson, Regina

Doom awaits us — later

2012 prophecy. The world won't end on Dec. 21, experts say, but there are plenty of ways Earth could go

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London

It was fun while it lasted, but it seems the world is ending. A growing clamour, based on the Mayan calendar, insists that Dec. 21, 2012, will mark the death of humanity. Even NASA has received thousands of terrified messages from the public.

But the calendar has been misinterpreted, say experts, who claim the "end" refers only to the end of a cycle. The Mayan calendar is split into 394-year "baktuns," and 2012 will see a new era.

"The 13th baktun will end on Dec. 21, and another will start," says Ines Valera-Silva, a researcher in Mayan studies at Loughborough University in the U.K. "That's all. A catastrophe has never been predicted."

Mayans today have stopped using the old calendar, Valera-Silva adds. "There is no reason to interpret this as a prophecy, but obviously some people are excited by it."

Who'll look the fool if Earth does end? Worshippers gather at Kukulkan temple at Chichén Itzá, Mexico. CUARTOSCURO

Hollywood movies and social media have driven the debate on exactly how the world will end. One Facebook page with 13,000 fans suggests it will come from a cosmic event.

"The biggest threat is a comet impact," says Benny Peiser, catastrophe specialist and founder of climate policy network CCNet. "It happens every few million years and could happen at any time. Astronomers are scanning the sky for potential risks, and we need to solve the problem for good by developing the technology to deflect asteroids."

More speculators believe a black hole will open and swallow us all. The fear led to widespread criticism of scientists working on the Large Hadron Collider, rumoured to be capable of producing a black hole.

Humankind may not need cosmic forces to bring down Armageddon. The Cold War may be over, but the number of nuclear nations has grown swiftly — and with it, the risk of a "final war."

"It's no secret how to make the weapons and it's not hard to think of people crazy enough to use them," says Alan Robock, environmental scientist at Rutgers University and author of Nuclear Winter Revisited.

Threat of terrorism beside, Robock sees a risk in regional feuds between nuclear powers India and Pakistan or Israel and Iran.

Environmentalists point to rising sea levels and the threat of a supervolcano, while nanotechnology may yet produce microorganisms that kill us from the inside.

The endless possibilities explain the interest in bookmaker William Hill's offer of 1,000,000-to-1 on the world ending.

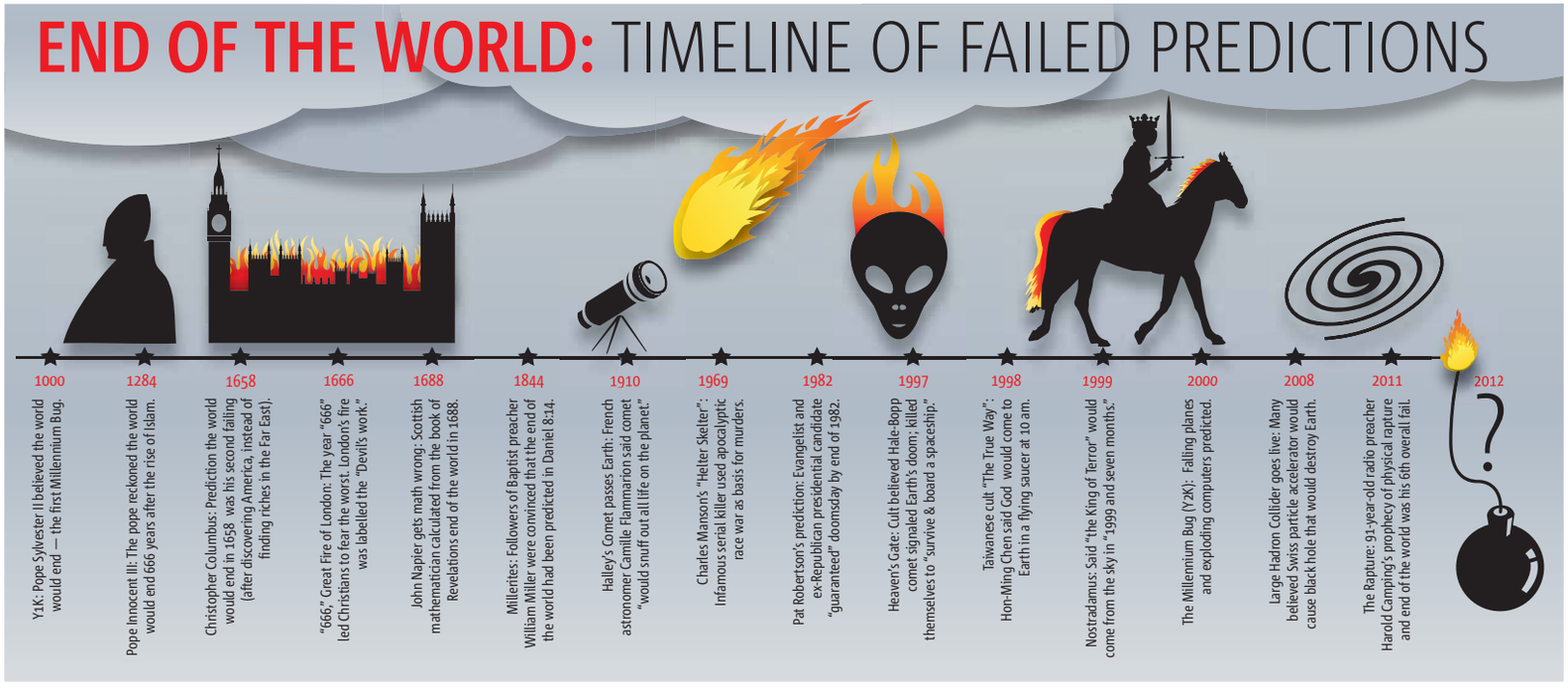
"Some may say it is a bet we can never lose, for the obvious reason that we won't be here to pay out should it happen," spokesman Graham Sharpe says, but several bets have already been placed.

Apocalypse options

- **Comet strike.** Still the most immediate threat; likely to be sudden. **Fear factor: 7/10**
- **Nuclear war.** Growing and probably more likely than world peace. **FF: 6/10**
- **Global warming.** Rising sea already threatening some islands; slow burn. **FF: 4/10**
- **Disease pandemic.** Could happen but unlikely to catch us by surprise. **FF: 2/10**
- **Sun burnout.** A sure thing but will be in 4.5 billion years' time. **FF: 0/10**

Bedtime reading: This Mayan manuscript suggests an end to a calendar cycle. GETTY IMAGES

END OF THE WORLD: TIMELINE OF FAILED PREDICTIONS


1000
Y1K: Pope Sylvester II believed the world would end — the first Millennium Bug.
1284
Pope Innocent III: The pope reckoned the world would end 666 years after the rise of Islam.
1658
Christopher Columbus: Prediction the world would end in 1658 was his second failing (after discovering America, instead of finding riches in the Far East).
1666
"666," Great Fire of London: The year "666" led Christians to fear the worst. London's fire was labelled the "Devil's work."
1688
John Napier gets math wrong: Scottish mathematician calculated from the book of Revelations end of the world in 1688.
1844
Millerites: Followers of Baptist preacher William Miller were convinced that the end of the world had been predicted in Daniel 8:14.
1910
Halley's Comet passes Earth: French astronomer Camille Flammarion said comet "would snuff out all life on the planet."
1969
Charles Manson's "Helter Skelter": Infamous serial killer used apocalyptic race war as basis for murders.
1982
Pat Robertson's prediction: Evangelist and ex-Republican presidential candidate "guaranteed" doomsday by end of 1982.
1997
Heaven's Gate: Cult believed Hale-Bopp comet signaled Earth's doom; killed themselves to "survive & board a spaceship."
1998
Taiwanese cult "The True Way": Hon-Ming Chen said God would come to Earth in a flying saucer at 10 am.
1999
Nostradamus: Said "the King of Terror" would come from the sky in "1999 and seven months."
2000
The Millennium Bug (Y2K): Falling planes and exploding computers predicted.
2008
Large Hadron Collider goes live: Many believed Swiss particle accelerator would cause black hole that would destroy Earth.
2011
The Rapture: 91-year-old radio preacher Harold Camping's prophecy of physical rapture and end of the world was his 6th overall fail.
2012
?

"Disney World.... Where else would you rather be but the happiest place on Earth?"

Chris Hancock, Winnipeg

"I already live every day like it's the last. So, (I'd) just carry on. I don't make future plans."

Andrew Goddard, London

"Blissfully ignorant that it is the last day on Earth. I just would not want to be aware."

Candice McCavitt, Toronto

"I would make a list of everyone in my life that I had something important to say to."

Kirk Raybould, Toronto

"I would break all the laws, all the rules. No drugs, no alcohol: It's not something you need at the end."

Fred Labonte, Ottawa

"I'd probably buy unlimited sushi ... drink a lot and not worry about the hangover the next day."

Leanne Stevens, Halifax

ERIKA PADRÓN
Metro World News in Mexico

DECEMBER 21 MAKES MAYANS LAUGH

Native Mayan José Natividad Ic Xec tells Metro their calendar's end has nothing to do with the world's end

José Natividad Ic Xec, a native Mayan living in Mérida, the capital of Yucatán in Mexico where the Mayan civilization once thrived, has dedicated his life to promoting his culture and tradition. Xec explains what the doomsday prophecy really means for his compatriots.

What does Dec. 21 mean to the Mayan people?
For Mayans living in Yucatán, this date means nothing. Like anyone else, we spend that day thinking about what we are going to eat, about our jobs or what the next few months will be like for us. This date was only conceived as a stage in a calendar, as Dec. 22 marks the end of 13 baktuns, (a baktun is a period of 394 years or 144,000 days). And so, it's just the end of an era in a calendar.

So the end-of-the-world prophecy is all fantasy?
People speak of a revolution in human consciousness, a new light that will shine upon the world. Believers talk of some kind of transformation and will gather at the Mayan pyramids to perform some kind of ritual. But all of this is not attributed to the Maya; we really don't care about it — on the contrary, it makes us laugh. Our people know little about the ancient Mayan Long Count calendar. The only thing we know is that the date Dec. 22 marks an end in the calendar, but people are using the date Dec. 21 because it is the solstice and thus a more memorable date.

Then why is the date such a big deal?
Experts claim that the 13th baktun is a good opportunity for people to make a profit out of those who believe. And if those faithful genuinely believe in it, they would be frightened; they would look for a bunker or think about a plan of survival. So this end-of-the-world talk is only a bit of fun.

You use social networks to promote your culture. How popular is Chilam Balam (Xec's blog based on the Mayan document allegedly containing prophecies)?
It's a concept that I started two years ago, first on Twitter and Facebook, then on a blog, which I hope will continue to grow. On my website, I publish stories on Mayan culture and its characteristics.

Do you yourself have any plans to mark the Mayan event?
Yes, on Dec. 21 and 22, I will be doing live broadcasts from (ancient Mayan site) Chichén Itzá. I will be chatting to Mayans who live in the area. I want them to tell me about how they live. Perhaps they will perform some traditional dancing. I will also talk to other experts like myself who have worked their whole lives to promote Mayan culture. But for all this to happen, I need sponsors. But I'm aware that our old indigenous culture is not a big seller.

José Natividad Ic Xec

- **Age:** 49
- **Born:** Peto, a Mayan village in Mexican state Yucatán.
- **Background:** Parents were Mayan speakers; grew up speaking Mayan and later learned Spanish; at the end of secondary school moved to Mérida, where he currently resides; worked at the Diario de Yucatán newspaper for 17 years; also studied philosophy and theology at the Seminario Conciliar de Yucatán.

Doomsday industry still booming despite the lessons of the past

Are you done your apocalypse shopping yet? You could throw down $30,000 on a space in a luxury underground bunker or a cheaper "survival kit" that can help you eat grass. Apocalypse literature is booming, with sales from the Left Behind book series worth almost $1 billion.

It's a modern update of the paper "pardons" sold as insurance against judgment day in the Middle Ages. Many experts trace the birth of the apocalypse industry to the U.S. Millerite movement, when preacher William Miller launched a campaign to promote his vision of doomsday in the 1840s.

"Systematic commercialization first arose from fear of nuclear war in the 1960s, with companies building bomb shelters," says Lorne Dawson, sociologist and author of Prophetic Failure and Millennial Movements. "That showed the business opportunity, and it continued with the survivalist movement of the 1970s and the growing fear of an eco-catastrophe."

Doomsday plan: Dress up like a Mayan and party hard. CONTRIBUTED

The years 2000 and 2012 have revived the focus, and Dawson believes it taps into a basic human desire. "Simple psychology shows that people need to believe they do not live in chaos, that there is a higher purpose."

Doom preaching has drawn backlash following cases such as the 2011 suicide of British teenager Isabel Taylor. "It's an industry that exploits anxiety and can be dangerous," says Bill Hudson, astronomer and editor of the 2012hoax blog.

Even if 2012 passes without incident, don't expect the industry to stop. "Even when a theory is debunked, a core group tends to become even more fervent," says Hudson. "True believers are locked in. You can't reason someone out of a position they didn't reason themselves into."

KIERON MONKS/MWN IN LONDON

Mexico. Prophecy injects billions into economy

It may be the end of the world, but certainly not for Mexico's economy. The Mayan prophecy will have attracted more than $15 billion in tourist revenue by the end of 2012 as millions flock to the country to discover its indigenous civilization.

Mexico's Ministry of Tourism predicts 52 million visitors will have come to Mexico by the end of 2012, many of whom will have visited the Mundo Maya (Quintana Roo, Yucatan and Campeche states).

"Today we are the 10th power for tourism in the world and we are working hard to be in the top five," outgoing President Felipe Calderon said.

Mexico put aside $10 million for a 2012 project last summer.

AGUSTÍN VELASCO/MWN IN MEXICO

Party like a Mayan

More than 500 Mayan-themed events will have taken place by the end of the year.

- **Festival Mundo Maya.** Folk festival that celebrates Mayan traditions in the Mexican city of Campeche until Dec. 30.
- **The Gran Museo del Mundo Maya.** Located in Merida, Yucatan's capital, the museum holds precious Mayan artifacts.
- **The End of the Long Count Mayan Calendar.** The 365-step pyramid of Chichén Itzá will host a ceremonial event on Dec. 21.

India incensed over gang rape on bus

Delhi. Protesters, politicians demand action after near-fatal attack shocks a nation

The hours-long gang rape and near-fatal beating of a 23-year-old student on a bus in New Delhi triggered outrage and anger across India on Wednesday as protesters demanded action from authorities who have long ignored persistent violence and harassment against women.

In the streets and in Parliament, calls rose for stringent and swift punishment against those who attack women, including a proposal to make rapists eligible for the death penalty. As the calls for action grew louder, two more gang rapes were reported, including one in which the 10-year-old victim was killed.

Thousands of demonstrators clogged the streets in front of New Delhi's police headquarters, protested near Parliament and rallied outside a major university. Angry university students set up roadblocks across the city, causing massive traffic jams.

Hundreds rallied outside the home of the city's top elected official before police dispersed them with water cannons, a move that earned further condemnation from opposition leaders, who accused the government of being insensitive.

"We want to jolt people awake from the cozy comfort of their cars. We want people to feel the pain of what women go through every day," said Aditi Roy, a Delhi University student.

As protests raged in cities across India, at least two girls were gang-raped, with one of them killed.

Police on Wednesday fished out the body of a 10-year-old girl from a canal in Bihar state's Saharsa district. Police superintendent Ajit Kumar Satyarthi said the girl had been gang-raped and killed and her body dumped in the canal. Police were investigating and a breakthrough was expected soon, Satyarthi said.

The 23-year-old victim lay in critical condition in the hospital with severe internal injuries, doctors said.

Police said six men raped the woman and savagely beat her and her companion with iron rods on a bus driving around the city — passing through several police checkpoints — before stripping them and dumping them on the side of the road on Sunday night.

Delhi police chief Neeraj Kumar said four men have been arrested and a search was underway for the other two.

Sonia Gandhi, head of the ruling Congress Party, visited the victim, promised swift action against the perpetrators and called for police to be trained to deal with crimes against women.

In New Delhi and across India, the outpouring of anger is unusual in a country where attacks against women are rarely prosecuted.

Opposition politicians shouted slogans and protested outside Parliament and called for making rape a capital crime. Cutting across party affiliations, lawmakers demanded the government announce a plan to safeguard women in the city.

Analysts say crimes against women are on the rise as more young women leave their homes to join the workforce in India's booming economy, even as deep-rooted social attitudes that women are inferior remain unchanged. Many families look down on women, viewing the girl child as a burden that forces them to pay a huge dowry to marry her off.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Indian woman shouts slogans outside the Delhi police headquarters during Wednesday's protest in New Delhi following the rape of a 23-year-old student. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I feel it is sick what is happening across the country and it needs to stop."

Smitha, a 32-year-old protester,
criticizing the Indian mindset on sexual assault and violence against women.

Yet another attack

On the same day of the protests, a young girl in India's Banka district of Bihar was allegedly raped by four men.

- The 14-year-old was in critical condition after the attack, a district education officer said.
- The suspected rapists have been identified, but police have yet to make any arrests.

Pedophile probe absolves BBC bosses of cover-up

Institutional chaos and confusion — but not a cover-up — were to blame for the BBC's disastrous handling of pedophilia allegations involving one of its best-known children's television personalities, an internal review found on Wednesday.

The review, carried out by former Sky News boss Nick Pollard, absolved BBC executives of trying to bury a potentially embarrassing story, saying that weak management and poor leadership were to blame for the fact that a planned exposé of the late TV star Jimmy Savile never aired on the flagship Newsnight program.

When the rival ITV network broadcast a similar exposé in October about Savile, who died in 2011 at the age of 84, the BBC came under fire for both harbouring an alleged serial sex abuser for decades and killing its own story about him.

"The Newsnight investigators got the story right," Pollard said. "They had found clear and compelling evidence that Jimmy Savile was a pedophile."

He said the decision by news executives to scrap the item "was clearly flawed, and the way it was taken was wrong, though I believe it was taken in good faith."

The review said the BBC was thrown into disarray when allegations that Savile was a serial sexual predator were made public, taking more than a month to get a handle on the situation.

The scandal has since metastasized, tainting the reputation of the BBC. It also forced the resignation of the BBC's new director-general, George Entwistle, and raised questions about its former leader, Mark Thompson, who has since become chief executive at The New York Times.

The BBC's decision to cancel its initial investigation in December 2011 over the objections of its reporters was one of the scandal's most embarrassing episodes, especially as it preceded a glowing tribute to Savile's career broadcast the same month. The timing and the circumstances of the cancellation raised questions about whether senior executives tried to bury the story to protect the corporation's reputation.

The report published Wednesday absolved the executives of that — the most serious — charge. The review cost the BBC $3.3 million.

The report does not appear to challenge Thompson's account of his role in the scandal — and Chris Patten, head of the BBC Trust, said after the review was published that he has "no reason at all for disbelieving" the former director-general.

Since the ITV documentary aired, scores of women have come forward, alleging they were abused by Savile when they were underage, sometimes in BBC dressing rooms. Police say Savile is a suspect in 199 crimes recorded so far, including dozens of cases of rape.

Two additional internal inquiries are still in the works.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nick Pollard, author of a report on the BBC's handling of a pedophile scandal, speaks to the media about his findings on Wednesday in London, England. CHRIS RADBURN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2281 Kingston Rd

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Hail the Cosmo Canuck!

Up, up and away.
Chris Hadfield blasts off from Kazakhstan on a mission to head the International Space Station

No sleeping, please — you're spacemen. Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko, left, U.S. astronaut Tom Marshburn and Canada's Chris Hadfield play a little snoozing joke on the media after putting on their spacesuits before blast-off at the Baikonur Cosmodrome. Next stop: The International Space Station.
SHAMIL ZHUMATOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now call him Cosmo Chris.

Chris Hadfield has successfully blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

He was on his way Wednesday on a mission to become the first Canadian to command the International Space Station.

Hadfield is travelling to the space station on board a Russian Soyuz capsule for a five-month visit to the giant orbiting space lab.

He is sharing the trip to the space station with NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn and Russian cosmonaut Roman Romanenko.

Governor-General David Johnston called Hadfield's launch "a great day for Canada, a great day for the world of discovery and innovation.''

He joined the families of Canadian Space Agency employees at its headquarters south of Montreal to watch the event on a giant TV screen.

"We're so proud that Chris Hadfield now is up in space — the first Canadian to be commanding the space station in March," he said.

"And now we simply pray for a continued safe mission and a safe return."

During his stay, Hadfield, an avid guitar player, plans to do some strumming to help him deal with homesickness.

The 53-year-old space veteran will also be involved with more than 130 experiments including Micro-flow, a Canadian blood-sampling experiment which he compared to a hospital in a box.

Hadfield will become the first Canadian to command the space station during the second half of his mission.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pension surplus

Big unions lose fight for $28B

The Supreme Court of Canada says several major public unions are not entitled to a $28-billion pension surplus the government hived off to help pay down the deficit.

The court ruled 9-0 that the government is not obliged to return the funds.

The unions argued the government improperly took their money.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Youth now key

Feds make point on immigration

The points system used to decide who can immigrate to Canada is getting a makeover.

The new judging criteria for the federal skilled worker program will award more points to younger immigrants and change the way the government looks at work experience and education.

The way points are allocated for language ability will also change.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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New online scam holds computers hostage

Cybercrime. 'Ransomware' locks your data, scares you into paying and may soon hit cellphones and businesses, experts say

Visit a porn site and you could have your computer locked down and an online ransom demanded as part of a security threat now expected to spread to other areas of the cyber world in 2013.

It's called "ransomware" and the idea is to scare computer users into paying money to get their machine working again and their data back, said Kevin Haley of Symantec Corp., maker of software security programs.

"The scam is usually, 'Hey we see that you have pornography on your machine and we're the police and you're going to jail for it," Haley said—unless you pay a fine or "ransom," he added.

At risk

" ... It's not just going after people who visited pornographic sites, it's going after anybody."

Kevin Haley, director at software security company Symantec Corp.

That means being told online by cybercriminals to buy a prepaid card with a specific amount. The user enters the card's PIN number on the computer keyboard's numeric pad, the only thing not locked down, Haley said.

Smaller corporations, executives and even individuals, all of whom may not have their data backed up, are at risk in 2013, as attackers broaden their base, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Security experts warn of "ransomware," where thieves can lock up your online data and demand payment for it. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Holy site receives half a billion in cheques

Worshippers usually leave notes to the Almighty at one of Judaism's holiest sites. But half a billion dollars?

Rabbi Shmuel Rabinovitch, who oversees Jerusalem's Western Wall, said a worshipper found an envelope at the site Wednesday with 507 checks in the amount of about $1 million each. They were not addressed to anyone, and it's doubtful they can be cashed.

Rabinovitch said most of the cheques are Nigerian. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Break-in

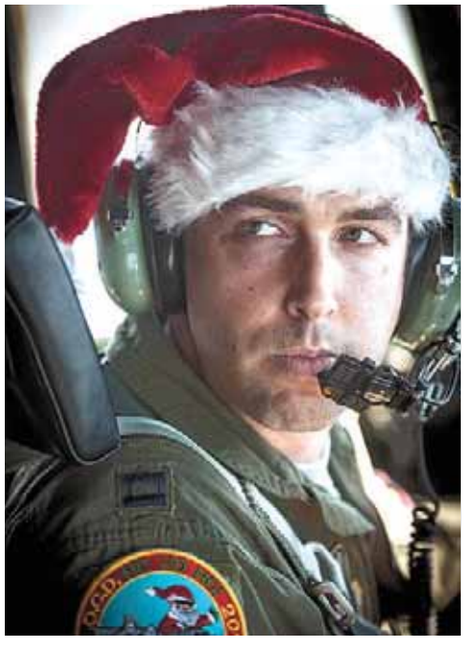
Freeze! It's the ice cream thief

Don't call this one a cold case.

Windsor, Ont., police are on the hunt for a man who broke into an ice cream parlour on Sunday and helped himself to some soft serve straight from the machine.

Around 5 a.m., police were dispatched to the Twistee Treat kiosk on Wyandotte Street East. A surveillance video shows the man checking for money in the cash register before putting his mouth on the ice cream dispenser and flicking the switch.

LUKE SIMCOE/METRO ONLINE



Just dropping in — with some holiday cheer

U.S. Air Force Capt. Dereck Monnier, 36th Airlift Squadron pilot and aircraft commander, wears a Santa hat during a flight over Micronesia Tuesday as part of Operation Christmas Drop, a 61-year-old annual humanitarian airlift mission. The air crew carried a bundle of supplies donated from around the Pacific Region to help remote islanders who do not have access to modern industry and supply chains. AP PHOTO/U.S. AIR FORCE

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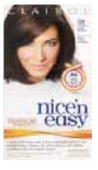

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Wartime massacre

U.S. seeks death penalty for soldier

The U.S. army said Wednesday it will seek the death penalty against a soldier accused of massacring 16 Afghan villagers, nine of them children, during predawn raids in March.

Staff Sgt. Robert Bales faces premeditated-murder charges. The slaying drew such angry protests that the U.S. halted combat operations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, 39.
DVIDS, SPC. RYAN HALLOCK/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Afghanistan

U.K. to withdraw 3,800 soldiers

Prime Minister David Cameron announced Wednesday that about 3,800 British troops would be withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of 2013.

Around 5,000 will remain into 2014, Cameron told lawmakers. The announcement comes after a video call Tuesday between Cameron and U.S. President Barack Obama.

Cameron said the decision reflects increasing confidence in the Afghan National Security Forces. After 2014, some troops will stay on to return equipment and deal with logistics, but no details on numbers have been finalized, he said.

The withdrawal of British troops will start next April, according to Defence Secretary Philip Hammond.

Since 2001, 438 British personnel have died in Afghanistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. President Barack Obama's selection as Time's person of the year was announced Wednesday on NBC's Today show. Obama also took the honour in 2008 as president-elect. TIME MAGAZINE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack Obama Time's person of the year — a second time

Going for three?
President takes the win as 'architect' of a new America

U.S. President Barack Obama has been named Time magazine's "person of the year" for 2012.

"We are in the midst of historic cultural and demographic changes, and Obama is both the symbol and in some ways the architect of this new America," Time editor Rick Stengel told NBC's Today show, where he announced the selection on Wednesday.

The short list for the honour included Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani teenager who was shot in the head for advocating for girls' education, as well as Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi, Apple CEO Tim Cook and Italian physicist Fabiola Gianotti of CERN.

Obama also received the honour in 2008, when he was president-elect.

In an interview with Time, Obama said his re-election "may have been more satisfying a win than 2008."

"We've gone through a very difficult time," Obama told the magazine. "The American people have rightly been frustrated at the pace of change, and the economy is still struggling, and this president we elected is imperfect; and yet, despite all that, this is who we want to be." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Previous winners

Time's "person of the year" is the person or thing that has most influenced culture and news during the past year, for good or for ill.

- **Last year,** Time honoured "the Protester," citing dissent across the Middle East that spread to Europe and the United States, saying the protesters reshaped global politics.
- **In 2010,** Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg received the honour.
- **Earlier winners** include Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Bono and former U.S. president George W. Bush.

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Recovery

Four-star hotel being built in Haiti

Construction crews in Haiti are building what is expected to be the country's first four-star-branded hotel.

The $45-million Marriott hotel is expected to create some 200 jobs and open in early 2015. It will feature 175 rooms and be located in Port-au-Prince.

The hotel is one of several planned for the capital and surrounding areas as Haiti tries to recover from a devastating 2010 earthquake that officials say killed 300,000 people.

Digicel Group chairman Denis O'Brien said at a groundbreaking event Wednesday that he believes the hotel will help attract more foreign visitors. The company is an investor.

Marriott International CEO and president Arne Sorenson said the company also is working with Haiti's tourism and education officials to improve hospitality training. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crime

Alleged robber caught red-nosed

There was nothing funny about a clown who stopped by a Crosstown Civic Credit Union in Winnipeg Tuesday afternoon.

The man — who police said Wednesday was dressed from head to toe like a clown, complete with a pair of fake breasts — also allegedly had a gun and robbed the credit union of an undisclosed amount of cash.

Luckily for police, who caught up with a suspect a short time later with the help of a K-9 unit, he wasn't hard to pick out.

"He had clothing that would be best described as a clown outfit," said police spokesperson Const. Jason Michalyshen. "Based on the information that was provided to us when the incident actually occurred, he certainly would have stood out."

No one was injured.

SHANE GIBSON/METRO IN WINNIPEG

This officer really knows how to bust ... a move

Holiday tradition. Former policeman has been dancing and directing traffic in Rhode Island since 1984

Stopping traffic

"He's a landmark ... he's an icon, he's like a little mini-celebrity."

EMT and fan Michelle Peterson

Ah, Christmas in Rhode Island. Exquisitely decorated mansions in Newport. A red nose on the giant termite that sits atop a Providence exterminator's building. And a traffic officer, doing disco and salsa moves in the middle of rush-hour traffic.

Officer Tony Lepore is as much a holiday tradition as anything else in the state that issued the first jail sentence for speeding 108 years ago. Since 1984, he has entertained drivers, pedestrians and gawkers with dance moves in downtown Providence — all while directing traffic.

"It feels good to see him out here, it definitely brings the holiday spirit," says emergency medical technician Michelle Peterson of Warwick. This year, she took her boys to see Lepore, 65, perform and got him to pose for pictures with them.

The routine, Lepore says, was born in the month of May out of boredom.

He was inspired by classic Candid Camera television footage he saw a day earlier that showed police officers elsewhere directing traffic with flair.

"I didn't know if my bosses were going to like it, so a lot of times if I saw a boss come down, I'd be doing my fancy stuff, then I'd go back and do it the old-fashioned way so I don't get caught," Lepore says.

His secret didn't last long. City residents began calling the police station and raving about Lepore's moves.

A few days later, The Providence Journal, the state's largest newspaper, came out with a story on the sensation.

The positive publicity encouraged officials to endorse the dancing cop, who continued to perform until he left the job in 1988.

In 1992, Lepore says, he got a call from city officials asking him to rejoin the force to dance and direct traffic around Christmastime as they pushed to redefine the city's image and bring visitors downtown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Providence police officer Tony Lepore shows how low he can go while directing traffic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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†Pictures shown in frames sold separately. **TV bench offer excludes TV and media storage combinations, wall brackets and FRAMSTÅ series. © Inter IKEA Systems B.V. 2012.

Judge with vertigo questions his own fairness

The B.C. Court of Appeal has reduced a man's sentence to 18 months from two years after the trial judge said he was suffering from a sudden vertigo problem and questioned his own fairness.

Peter Hancock pleaded guilty to one count of possessing heroin for the purpose of trafficking, and his lawyer suggested a sentence of one year.

The Crown wanted two years and the judge asked Hancock if he preferred to serve 18 months in a provincial jail or two years in the federal system.

"I guess federal," Hancock replied.

The next day, the judge had Hancock brought back to court and said he might have been unwell when he imposed the sentence and couldn't say if he acted impartially.

"He stated that shortly after the sentencing he became unwell with a sudden onset vertigo problem," the appeal-court decision said.

Hancock wanted the judge to change the sentence to provincial time but the judge said it was too late for him to do that and suggested an appeal.

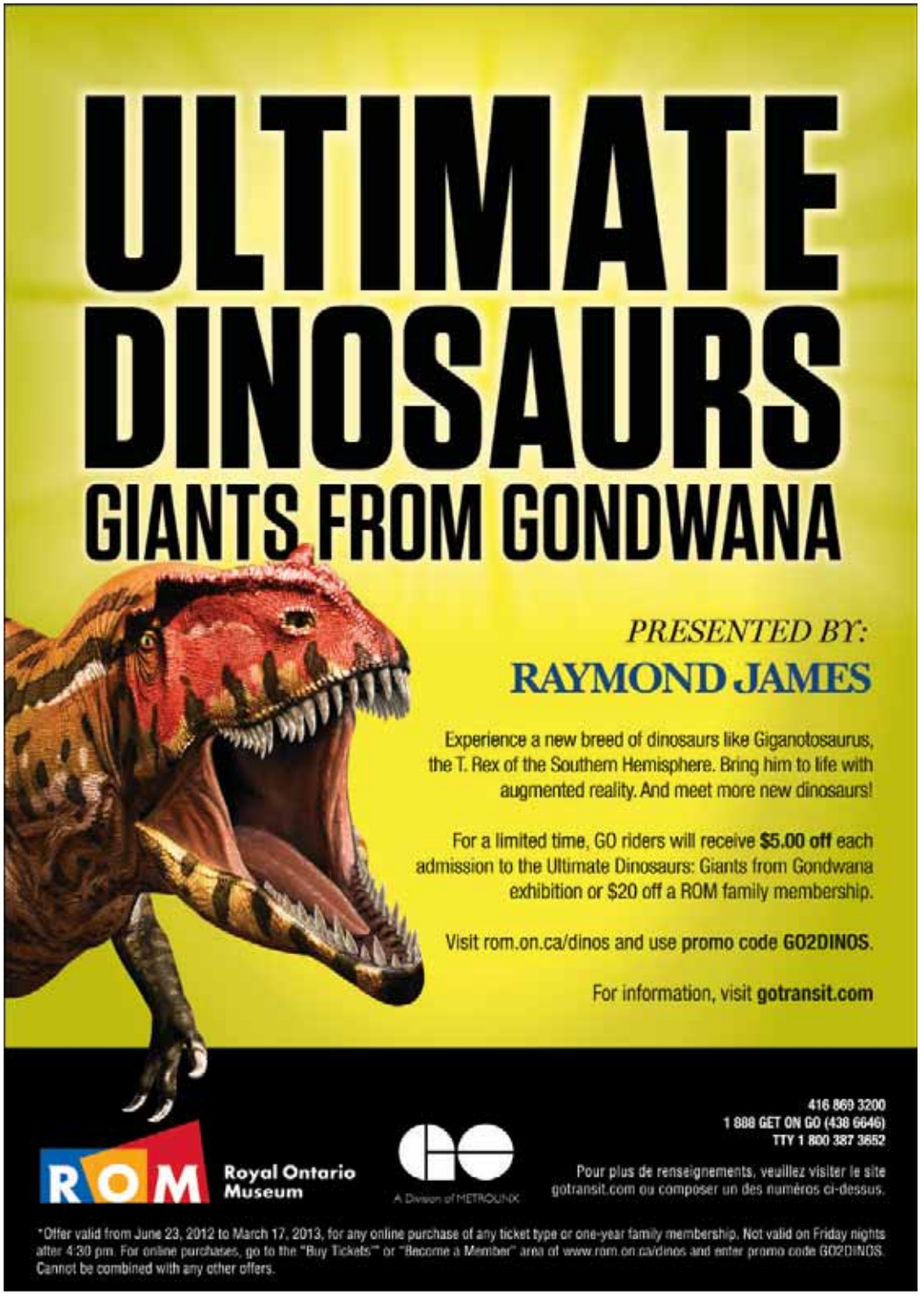
The unusual circumstances had the Crown conceding that it would be appropriate for the appeal-court judges to substitute a sentence that the trial judge likely would have imposed had he been well.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"He was concerned that he could not say when the symptoms came upon him and he might have been unwell when he imposed the sentence on the appellant the previous day."

Appeal-court decision, referring to the judge's condition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Aboriginal drummers play in an intersection during a protest in London on Wednesday. The indigenous peoples' rights march blocked a highway before heading into London, ending with a rally in the downtown.

DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

First Nations protesters target London

Growing. Wednesday march one of many as campaign aimed at saving environment, land builds steam

ANGELA MULLINS
Metro in London

Beating drums, hurling insults at the Harper government, and gridlocking traffic, about a thousand First Nations people descended on London Wednesday as part of a nationwide protest centred on treaty rights.

The activists paraded along Highway 401/402, Wellington Road and through downtown — the path their ancestors took to the Thames River — as police turned to Twitter urging patience from drivers.

Many wore red armbands and headbands during the four-hour, approximately 18-kilometre march, a sign of sovereignty, the protesters said. People chanted "Idle no more" — the phrase that's become the grassroots campaign's motto — as they neared the forks of the river for a rally.

"We've waited for things to happen. We haven't made them happen," Chippewa of the Thames First Nations Chief Joe Miskokomon said. "It's time for the government to stand up and listen to us."

Backers of the Idle No More movement say federal policies — specifically those in the omnibus budget legislation, Bill C-45 — are weakening environmental laws and hurting aboriginal communities. First Nations should be recognized as sovereign stakeholders in decisions affecting land and resources, they claim.

"We are the government in this country, and (Prime Minister Stephen) Harper has to start recognizing that," Glen Hare, the Anishinabek Nation's deputy grand chief, said Wednesday. "Harper has crossed the line.

"Don't give Canada away and don't sell us."

Idle No More started in Saskatchewan, spreading across Canada and into the U.S.

The first protests were launched Dec. 10 and this week's efforts are expected to culminate with a Friday rally on Parliament Hill.

Movement's stance

- **Manifesto.** The Idle No More manifesto says Canada has become "one of the wealthiest countries in the world" on the backs of First Nations people.
- **Profits.** "Some of the poorest First Nations communities (such as Attawapiskat) have mines or other developments on their land but do not get a share of the profit," the manifesto reads. "The taking of resources has left many lands and waters poisoned — the animals and plants are dying in many areas in Canada."

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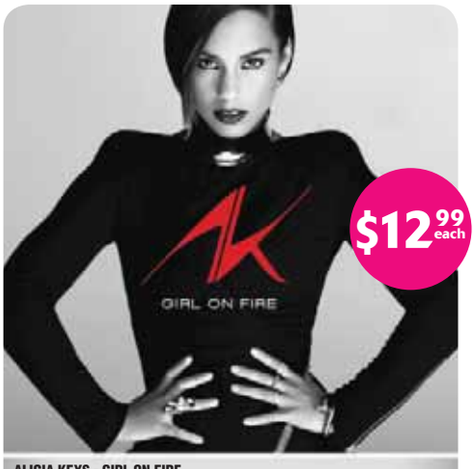

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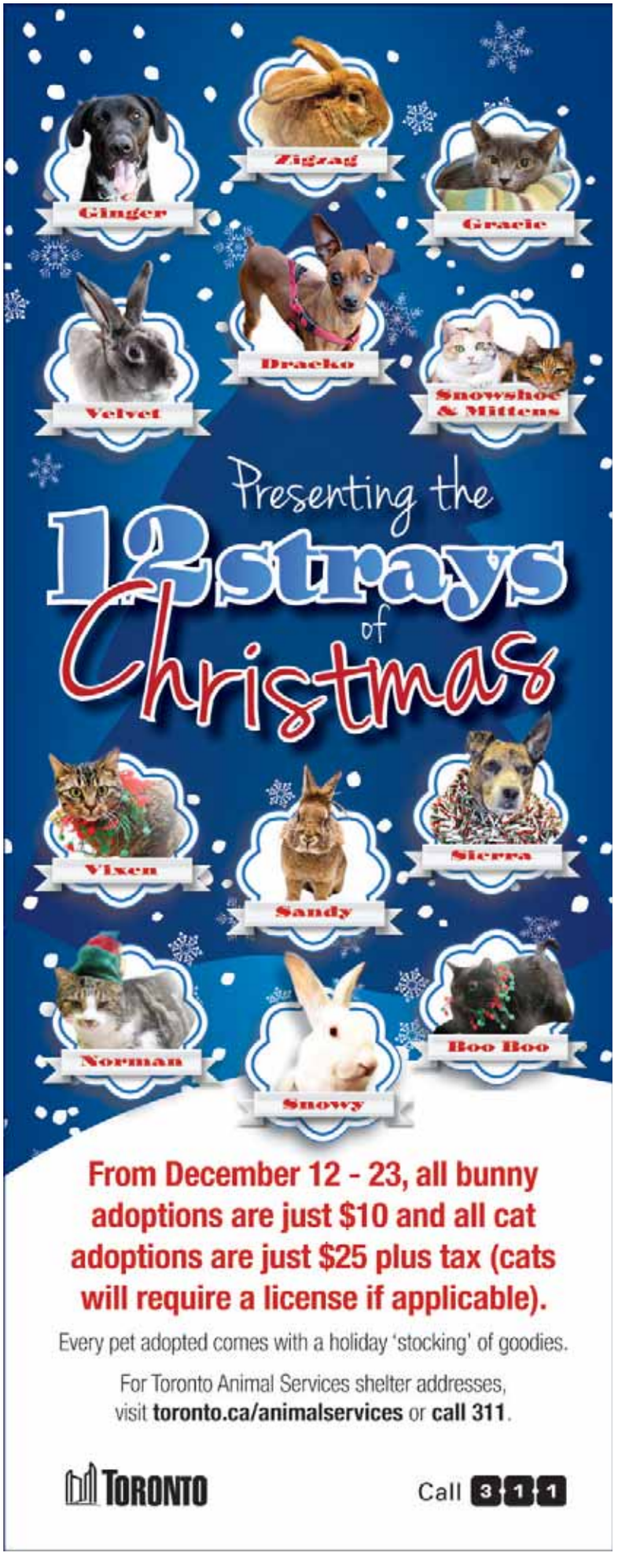
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Dominique Strauss-Kahn leaves his Paris apartment earlier this month. JACQUES BRINON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Strauss-Kahn's legal problems not quite over

Lille, France. The only case remaining involves Strauss-Kahn's suspected role in a hotel prostitution ring

French judges decided Wednesday not to drop pimping charges against former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn, according to his lawyers, who had sought to have the case thrown out.

The defence quickly vowed to appeal.

Strauss-Kahn, 63, is fresh off a legal settlement reached in the U.S. last week with Nafissatou Diallo, the New York hotel maid who had accused him of rape in May 2011.

That accusation torpedoed his once-illustrious political career, and was followed by other allegations of sex-related wrongdoing.

None has led to a conviction. The only case remaining is the investigation into Strauss-Kahn's suspected role in a hotel prostitution ring in the northern French city of Lille.

An appeals court in nearby Douai on Wednesday maintained preliminary charges filed against Strauss-Kahn in March for aggravated procurement in an organized gang — meaning the probe can continue.

He is one of several defendants in the case, which allegedly involves prominent city figures and police.

A French writer also claimed that Strauss-Kahn tried to rape her in 2003 but prosecutors threw out her case because it happened too long ago. The one-time French presidential hopeful resigned from his IMF job and saw his reputation collapse.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No convictions so far

"We are certain that Dominique Strauss-Kahn will be cleared of all charges against him."
Frederique Baulieu, a lawyer for the former IMF chief

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South Korea elects its first female president

Park Geun-hye. Newly elected president is open to North Korea détente

Park Geun-hye, daughter of a divisive military strongman from South Korea's authoritarian era, was elected the country's first female president Wednesday, a landmark win that could mean a new drive to start talks with rival North Korea.

After five years of high tension under unpopular incumbent Lee Myung-bak (Lee Myuhng Bahk), Park has vowed to pursue engagement and step up aid to North Korea, despite the latter's widely condemned long-range rocket launch last week.

North Korean state media, however, have repeatedly questioned the sincerity of Park's North Korea policy since she and Lee are from the same conservative party.

Quote

"I really thank you. This election is the people's victory."

Park Geun-hye, South Korea's president and daughter of a divisive military strongman from the country's authoritarian era.

Ties between the Koreas plummeted during Lee's term. Many voters believe Lee's policies drove North Korea to renew nuclear and missile tests and to launch two attacks in 2010 that killed 50 Koreans.

The rocket launch made North Korea an issue in the closing days of campaigning, although many voters said they cared more about the economy.

Park (Bahk guhn-hae) has said she is open to dialogue with North Korea, but she has also called on Pyongyang to show progress in nuclear dismantlement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korea's first female president Park Geun-hye on Wednesday.
LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Damning Benghazi attack report. State Department security chief, deputy, resign

Three State Department officials resigned under pressure Wednesday, less than a day after a damning report blamed management failures for a lack of security at the U.S. diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, where militants killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans on Sept. 11.

The resignations came as lawmakers expressed anger and frustration over the findings of an independent review panel, and the State Department struggled to find a balance between protecting its diplomats while allowing them to do their jobs connecting with people in high-risk posts.

An Obama administration official named Eric Boswell, the assistant secretary of state for diplomatic security, Charlene Lamb, the deputy assistant secretary responsible for embassy security, and Raymond Maxwell, the deputy assistant secretary of state who oversees the Maghreb nations of Libya, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss personnel matters publicly.

The issue of security at the mission and the deaths of the Americans became a political hot potato with Republicans accusing the Obama administration, and especially UN Ambassador Susan Rice of playing down the possibility it was a terrorist attack. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blame game?

- The board's co-chairman, retired Adm. Mike Mullen, told reporters that the board had not determined that any officials had "engaged in wilful misconduct or knowingly ignored his or her responsibilities."
- But Mullen, a former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, added, "We did conclude that certain State Department bureau level senior officials in critical levels of authority and responsibility in Washington demonstrated a lack of leadership and management ability appropriate for senior ranks in their responses to security concerns posed by the special mission."

Violence

UN suspends polio vaccination in Pakistan after gunmen kill 8 people in 2 days

The United Nations suspended its polio vaccination drive in Pakistan on Wednesday after eight people involved in the effort were shot dead in the past two days, a UN official said.

The suspension was a grave blow to the drive to bring an end to the scourge of polio in Pakistan, one of only three countries where the crippling disease still survives. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cold

$1B emergency appeal launched as winter hits Syrian children

The words of Syrian children, forced to flee violence in their own country, tell the story of frigid youngsters huddling against sub-zero temperatures under thin blankets with no heat, their untreated coughs evolving into more serious untreated illnesses.

Aid workers in Canada are hoping such stories might hit the hearts and pocketbooks of Canadians after the United Nations launched a $1-billion pre-Christmas emergency appeal. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Donations are better than gifts, majority of Canadians say

Holiday spirit. Poll also finds that almost half of respondents volunteered in 2012

A man gives money to a Salvation Army holiday campaign in this file photo. Instead of receiving presents, two-thirds of Canadians would prefer a charitable donation be made on their behalf this holiday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A new study suggests almost two-thirds of Canadian adults would rather see a donation to charity on their behalf rather than receive a gift this holiday season.

The poll for BMO Harris Private Banking also found that 78 per cent of respondents would consider making that charitable donation rather than giving a traditional gift.

The survey also found that nearly half of Canadians (45 per cent) volunteered their time in 2012.

The bank does caution that people need to beware of fraudulent charities, notably solicitations made over the phone.

It advises you ask for the charity's registered name, address and telephone number and double check with the Canada Revenue Agency to make sure it's a legitimate outfit — and always ask for a tax receipt.

The findings are based on two surveys conducted for the bank by Pollara from Nov. 2 and 9 and Dec. 6 and 10.

Both surveys polled 1,000 Canadians 18 and over and are considered accurate within 3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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In this 2010 file photo, General Motors Co. CEO Daniel Akerson poses in front of the New York Stock Exchange following GM's initial public offering. On Wednesday, the U.S. government said it will sell its remaining stake in General Motors in the next year or so, winding down a controversial $50-billion US bailout. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GM will spend $5.5B to buy back shares

Government bailout. Washington is almost certain to lose billions on deal that saved iconic carmaker

The U.S. Treasury plans to sell its remaining stake in General Motors over the next 15 months, allowing the automaker to shed the stigma of being partly owned by the American government.

GM said Wednesday it will spend $5.5 billion US to buy back 200 million shares of its stock from the Treasury by the end of this year.

And the U.S. government, unlike its Canadian counterpart, has promised to sell its remaining 300 million shares on the open market starting in January and get out of the company's business within the next 12 to 15 months.

The deal almost certainly means that Washington will lose billions on the $49.5-billion US bailout that saved GM from being auctioned off in pieces during the financial crisis in 2008 and 2009. GM's buyback will cut the Treasury's stake to 19 per cent from 26.5 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Philanthropy. Zuckerberg donates $500M in stock

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said he is giving nearly $500 million US in stock to a Silicon Valley charity with the aim of funding health and education issues.

Zuckerberg donated 18 million Facebook shares, valued at $498.8 million US based on their Tuesday closing price. The beneficiary is the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, a nonprofit that works with donors to allocate their gifts.

This is Zuckerberg's largest donation to date. He pledged $100 million US in Facebook stock to Newark, N.J., public schools in 2010, before his company went public earlier this year.

In a Facebook post Tuesday, Zuckerberg, 28, said he's "proud of the work" done by the foundation that his Newark donation launched, called Startup: Education, which has helped open charter schools, high schools and others.

With the latest contribution, he added, "we will look for areas in education and health to focus on next." He did not give further details on what plans there may be for funds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giving Pledge

- In 2010, Zuckerberg joined Giving Pledge, an effort led by Microsoft Corp. founder Bill Gates and Berkshire Hathaway Inc. CEO Warren Buffett to get the richest people in the U.S. to donate most of their wealth. His wife, Priscilla Chan, joined with him.

Market Minute

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Penny's end to cost a mint

Chump change. New analysis shows price tag for redeeming one-cent coins in circulation will be about $7.3M yearly

Jeff Golby wears an oversized model of a penny on his head as he collects donations of one-cent coins for charity during this past summer's Canada Day festivities in Vancouver. The federal government is phasing out use of the Canadian penny, and the last one was minted this past May. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

The demise of Canada's one-cent coin next year will save taxpayers less than expected.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the impending withdrawal of the penny in last March's budget, saying the government would save $11 million a year in production costs.

That's because production of each one-cent coin had cost the Royal Canadian Mint about 1.6 cents. But a new analysis of costs shows that redeeming the mountain of circulating pennies beginning Feb. 4 will cost taxpayers about $7.3 million a year.

The analysis projects a net cost of about $38.3 million to redeem some six billion pennies expected to be turned in by consumers and financial institutions over the next six years.

Costs include $53 million expected to be paid out to redeem the face value of the coins, as well as another $27 million in handling and administration costs by the Royal Canadian Mint.

Recycling the zinc and copper from melted-down pennies will bring in about $42.5 million in revenue, leaving government in the red at slightly more than $38 million.

However, adding the $11 million in annual savings from not minting any more pennies, which ceased production May 4 this year, still gives the government annual savings of almost $4 million over the expected six-year redemption period.

As the coins are withdrawn, cash transactions will begin to be rounded off to the nearest five cents, but there are no government-imposed rules or policing. Electronic transactions, such as those on debit cards or credit cards would still be registered in cents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

By the numbers

35B

Over the last century, the Royal Canadian Mint has stamped an estimated 35 billion pennies from metal plates. The penny remains legal tender even after Feb. 4.

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VEGAS: WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS WRITTEN IN A COLUMN

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Greetings, world travellers! The U.S. may have a Bible Belt to hold up the britches of the nation, but this week we look at Las Vegas, the city where pants are optional.

This luminous postage stamp in the middle of desert darkness is home to the American stereotype in all its glory. I have enough American friends to know the obvious — that the U.S. is incredibly diverse — but here in Vegas I'm surrounded by large boobs (not literally), large food (I had a crab cake with the same size and heft of a curling stone) and large cars (my 'compact' rental could comfortably seat a starting hockey lineup wearing its gear).

After four days here, I have compiled this exhaustive 350-word guide to Sin City, which contains oodles of useful information for your trip to Las Vegas. (LEGAL DISCLAIMER: This column contains no useful information about anything.)

Las Vegas 101

Las Vegas, literally "Lots of Neon," was founded by itinerant escorts and slot-machine builders in the 1930s, who dreamed of a new America where all the worst jobs in the country could be concentrated in one place. Here you'll find tens of thousands of service workers who must put up with customers in a perpetual "Listen here, friend" state of 1-a.m.-drunkenness, and the servers do it all with a smile — a tight, painful smile. You will pity-tip more than you ever have in your entire life.

Fortunately, you'll have plenty of opportunities to distract yourself. For instance, while newspaper boxes lie empty in much of the United States, Vegas does a booming media trade with such well-respected publications as Barely Legal, College Girls! and Alt. Who Says Print is Dead?

And did you know that in Las Vegas it's legal to gamble? The only rule is that the gambling must take place in a one-third replica of some other place on Earth.

The casino resorts include:

- The Venetian, which has an exact replica of the Venice canals, right down to the neon-rimmed gondolas, the ice skating rink, and the country-western band playing covers on the hour. Viva Italia!
- New York, New York, which for just $5 extra will give you a one-third mugging.
- The Bellagio, famous for its fountains, which are a replica of the Eastern European country Bellagistan and its three-times-bigger fountains.
- One shopping mall also looks like a (really) cheap one-third knock-off of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, so presumably there'll soon be a really earnest but widely disliked resort here soon with the slogan "A World-Class Casino ... Aren't We?"

Vegas could be tempting to dismiss as low-rent or vulgar, but unlike many other cities, it knows exactly what it is. And if you don't like it, well, nobody told you to travel to the middle of the desert.

The city also has many bars and whatnot, but I don't want to get into that because of space restrictions and just in case I ever want to run for U.S. Congress. Mistakes were made. We'll leave it at that.

Because, as the man said, you got to know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away, and know when to run. (That man, of course, was a one-third replica of Kenny Rogers.)

A sign of the times in Las Vegas. JOHN MAZEROLLE

Takes an eagle eye to spot a hoax

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Class project

World fooled by Montreal video

Relax, world — your baby won't get snatched by an eagle if you visit Montreal.

An online video of the massive bird plucking an infant off the ground has been acknowledged by its creators as a fake.

The admission comes after the video, produced by students at a new-media training school in Montreal, was viewed millions of times Wednesday on YouTube and was the subject of news reports in Canada and internationally. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Other pranks

With the Internet in shock over the eagle/toddler hoax, Metro decided to revisit some other online video spoofs of the past.

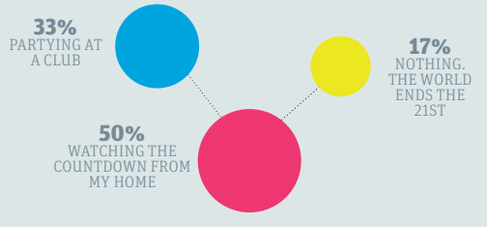
- **Lonelygirl15.** This was an early online video blog depicting the life of a fictional teenager named Bree Avery. The series followed the typical angst-ridden teenager whose confessional videos covered things like her favourite stuffed animals or her first kiss. Over time, the show evolved to include a cult and the mysterious disappearance of Bree's parents. In the fall of 2006, fans of the show discovered that Bree was actually a 19-year-old actress named Jessica Rose, and the show was revealed to be fake.
- **Dating site eHarmony cat lady.** A woman named Debbie tearfully confessed her love of felines in what appeared to be a dating site biography. The site released a statement after admitting it was a hoax.
- **Onion iPod charger.** A video purportedly showed a man charging his iPod using an onion and some Gatorade. It also garnered a lot of press when frustrated Apple enthusiasts plugged their devices into various vegetables.
- **Microsoft 'viral marketing' slip and slide.** A video shows a man rocketing down a giant water slide before flying off a ramp at the end and landing in a small wading pool. The video was created using a stuntman and computer animation, and was eventually revealed to be part of a marketing campaign for Microsoft Office.

Watch these videos and more at metronews.ca.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What will you be doing for New Year's?



Twitter

@btunstall: There is surprise, an American company who doesn't care about the Canadian worker. Shame on GM.

@mzallieosin: Ontario and Federal govmts should seize land and assets: $ should have been tied to jobs. I'll never buy GM again: 31 yrs.

@montanasierrra: Harper just needs to get the pinecone outta his a-- and sit with First Nations leaders already.. not so much to ask for. #realtalk

@antheafoyer: If Stephen Harper has time for Justin Beiber he should make time for Theresa Spence! 'One Big Campaign'

@_ldget: Oh wait... That whole baby snatching thing was a f--king hoax? S--t

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Jason Collett's Basement Revue heads for grander pastures

The Great Hall. Larger venue means getting bigger names on the bill to help fill room

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

While the rest of us busy ourselves with last minute holiday preparations, local singer-songwriter Jason Collett has had decidedly less seasonal preoccupations on his mind.

Throughout the month of December, Collett is once again running his Basement Revue out of the Dakota Tavern, a weekly performance series mixing music with poetry that's become a tradition for many in the city.

"That was not planned," admits the musician, who originally saw the Revue as a one-time extension of the spontaneous late night kitchen jams he's hosted. That was six years ago.

"The season lends itself to the whole celebratory atmosphere. It feels like a bit of a house party."

Tonight marks a shift, however, as Collett and crew leave the intimate confines of the Dakota for the far grander Great Hall. The move is a bid to raise some cash to fund a website and film to showcase the audio and video archives of Revue performances that Collett's amassed.

Key to the series' success is the willingness of artists from both the music and literary worlds to step out of their comfort zones.

Local artist Bahamas once played an entire set of Willie Nelson covers, while Buck 65 simply told a story.

"Everyone is willing to be vulnerable," he says.

"That's how you get closer to the people in the room."

In order to match the Great Hall's considerable size, Collett has enlisted Revue alumni and "bigger names" who have never played the show before, though guests aren't revealed ahead of time.

"It's not a cheap ticket and people don't know who they're coming to see," he concedes.

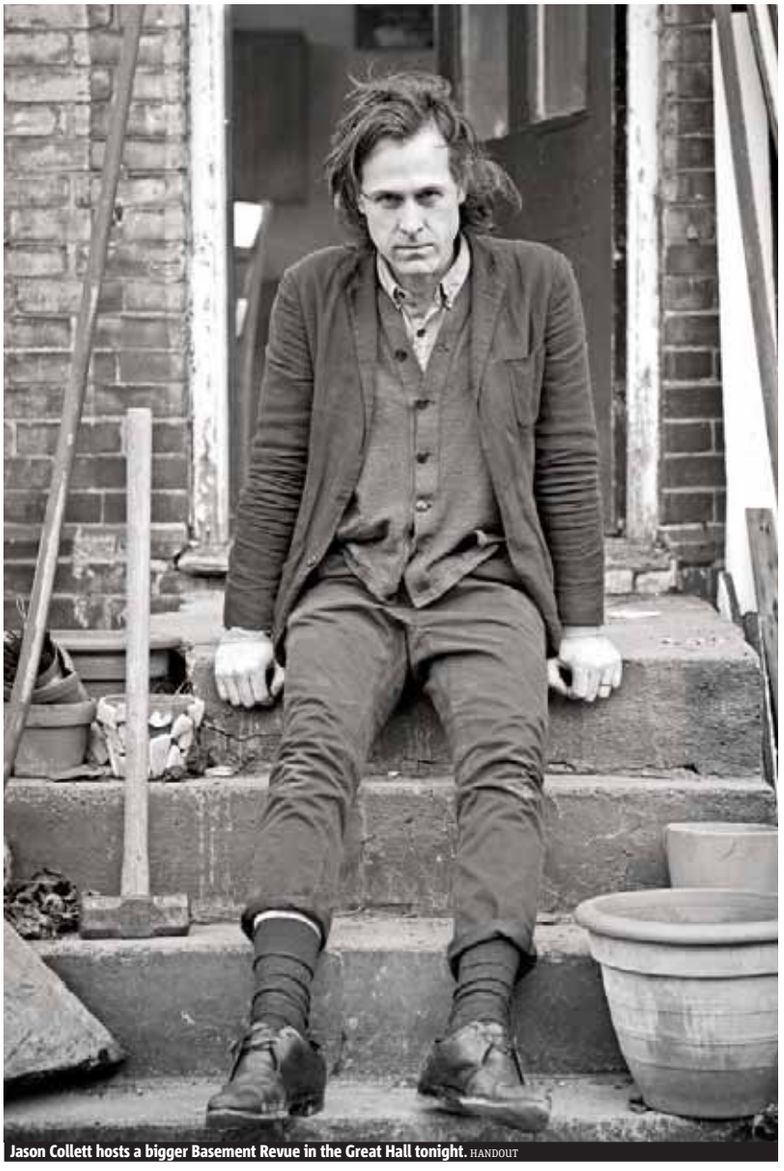
"People have to take my word for it."

But he's certain that after word of the evening's performers trickles out, "you'll kick yourself the next day."

Jason Collett's Basement Revue — Tonight, the Great Hall, 1087 Queen St. W. $25.

Music gateway to poetry?

Along with showcasing some of the best musicians Toronto has to offer, the Basement Revue series has given equal weight to the city's literary community. The idea came after Collett attended an event put on by publishing imprint House of Anansi Press, where poet Kevin Connolly spoke. "I like how entertaining reading poetry can be," he says. So when it came time to curate his Basement Revue, Collett wanted to ensure that poetry was included in the program. "People know that they're going to get a name or two in a given night," he says. The profile of the musicians act as "a gateway to the higher brow stuff."



Jason Collett hosts a bigger Basement Revue in the Great Hall tonight. HANDOUT

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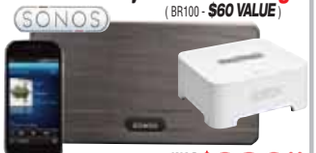

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Internet backlash. The fantastic Mr. Jamie Foxx responds to his critics

Django Unchained has received criticism for its violent scenes. HANDOUT

The Internet is stupid, according to Jamie Foxx. When asked about criticism regarding his new film, Django Unchained, the star is adamant about the fact the online naysayers — who have been critical of the film's frequent use of the N word by both black and white characters — are irrelevant. As long as Oprah approves, everything's basically OK.

"When Oprah saw it, we were like ..." Foxx gives us a terrified stare. "She was like, 'I loved it. It was hard to watch in some spots. I cannot believe I was laughing in some spots at some of these things because you know me, I'm super-black woman.' I'm paraphrasing."

Even director of the film, Quentin Tarantino, found himself susceptible to the online criticism about the film, according to Foxx.

"A couple friends of mine, entertainers, read so much of it until they shut down," Foxx says. "Even Quentin calls me, says, 'Man.' I'm like, 'What? Who gives a f—k. They're on the Internet.' The Internet to me is nothing."

Foxx has an explanation for all the ire, for his movie and on the Internet in general.

"What it comes down to is what I call subliminal jealousy," he says. "A lot of people aren't artists. A lot of people aren't special, so all they can do is stand on the outside and just say the loudest, craziest, zaniest sh— in the world. I actually laugh at most of the stuff, but that's all it is."

Quoted

"What it comes down to is what I call subliminal jealousy."

Jamie Foxx
Django Unchained star

But the film about a freed slave who becomes a bounty hunter is receiving an equal amount of praise for its unflinchingly violent portrayal of life in the South, just two years before the Civil War. While the brutality is graphic, in a marked contrast, there are plenty of hilarious moments. It's the kind of juxtaposition that is the hallmark of a Tarantino film.

"(Kerry Washington's and my) character were more the grounded characters and then all of these funny things that happen around them, which I think is so necessary, because it gave people some relief," Foxx says.

HEIDI PATALANO/METRO WORLD NEWS

Tarantino Unchained on Django emotions

New movie. Director talks about how he scaled back parts of his new movie despite wanting to take it further than he ended up doing

LIZ BROWN
scene@metronews.ca

Director Quentin Tarantino made a conscious effort to drop some violence from his recent film. HANDOUT

Django Unchained is a movie so brutal, it brought Quentin Tarantino to tears.

In Toronto earlier this month for the Canadian premiere, he recounted how he broke down during an intense scene where a couple of sadistic slave owners whip Broomhilda (played by Kerry Washington), the wife of the film's hero Django.

"I was operating the camera on one of those scenes and (Washington) got to me. The next thing you know I was completely blind because my eyepiece was filling up with tears," he says.

But it was more the context of the brutality than the bloody assault that yanked at Tarantino's emotions.

"That was a rough scene," he admits. "Where we were doing it, when you see that scene, you will see shacks behind her and those were the actual slave quarters where the slaves lived on those plantations. There is blood in that grass and flesh in those trees and we felt the ancestors who once walked there," he says.

The Django Unchained that audiences will view when it heads to theatres on Dec. 25 is a toned-down version of the film Tarantino originally offered the American ratings juggernaut MPAA.

"They actually gave an R rating to a rougher version than I ultimately ended up presenting to the public," he says.

It was the director himself who made the call to chill on the violence — even though the gore remains trademark Tarantino and there are plenty of scenes that will churn the stomachs of the strongest viewers.

"I could handle a rougher version of the movie than what exists right now. I have more of a tolerance for it, but I kind of realized that when I watched that version of the movie with audiences, that I was traumatizing them too much. It's just that f—king simple. And I want people to enjoy the movie at the very end of it."

Rated R

"I could handle a rougher version of the movie than what exists right now. I have more of a tolerance for it."

Quentin Tarantino

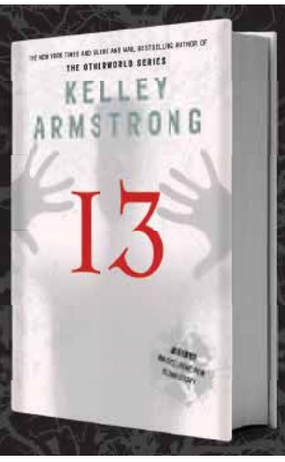
Clocking in at just under three hours, there's plenty to enjoy in Tarantino's take on the spaghetti western and his homage to Italian director Sergio Corbucci, the man behind the original Django. The film follows Django (Jamie Foxx), a slave-turned-bounty hunter on his quest to free his wife from the evil plantation owner Calvin Candie (Leonardo DiCaprio).

Set in the pre-Civil War South, Tarantino peppers his dialogue with the N word, substitutes literary references for his typical pop culture banter and offers his heroes lots of moral grey areas in which to roam.

"I wasn't so much trying to get a message across (about slavery) as paint a very realistic picture of what America was like at that time and create a world where slavery is the norm," he says.

"Rather than make some soapbox speeches about it, or make points against America, I just wanted to ... take you back to that time and stick you in the middle of it."

"Kelley Armstrong is one of my favorite writers."
KARIN SLAUGHTER, author of the international bestseller *Fractured*



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Billy Crystal dispenses some Parental Guidance for others

New movie. Actor talks about how grateful he is for a long career and marriage — he met his wife at 18

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Artie and Diane (Billy Crystal and Bette Midler) debate whether to accept their daughter's invitation to babysit their grandkids. HANDOUT

An early scene in Parental Guidance finds Billy Crystal's baseball announcer Artie Decker confused by a barrage of Twitter and Facebook-related terms lobbed at him by his boss.

While Crystal himself has become an avid and adept user of Twitter, he does share some of his character's misgivings about technology.

Pulling out his iPhone, he says, "The thing about these things — and I just got one — as a parent and a grandparent you can get called when things happen. But I hate seeing families in restaurants and they're all (looking at their phones.) They text the waiter what they want. They look so sad. The art of conversation is gone."

That condition extends beyond the family dinner hour, Crystal warns.

"What kills me also is people walking around town looking down at their phone assuming everyone else is going to stop and get out of the way," he says. "We have a world looking down."

That early scene, by the way, ends with Artie getting fired at age 58 after being a minor league baseball announcer for decades, always dreaming of calling major league games for the San Francisco Giants. Luckily, 64-year-old Crystal hasn't had to see any dreams go unfulfilled himself.

"I'm shocked I've done as many things as I've done," he says. "I'm so grateful for having a long career. And I hope it gets longer. I don't take anything for granted. I'm so fortunate and lucky in my life. I met somebody who I fell in love with when I was 18. I've been married 43 years. I have two great kids, four grandchildren and another on the way. This was a dream of mine to get made and we wrestled it to the ground and got it made. If I stop now, every dream I've ever had is great. I just keep dreaming."

Quoted

"I hate seeing families in restaurants and they're all (looking at their phones) ... The art of conversation is gone."

Billy Crystal
Star of Parental Guidance

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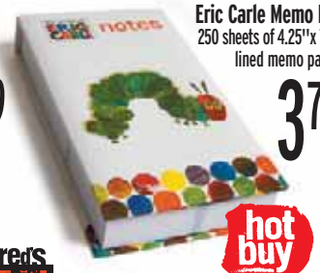

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Stand tall Tom, you can still Cruise on this thrill ride. HANDOUT

No height minimums to ride with this character

Vertically challenged. The best-selling thrill writer, Jim Grant, is just fine with Tom Cruise taking on his beloved character Jack Reacher

Quoted

"It was not really a political response, it was a human response. No one feels like going out and partying on a Saturday."

Child on postponing the U.S. Pittsburgh premiere following the deadly Connecticut school shooting.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
Metro World News

Tom Cruise is one of the biggest movie stars in the entire world.

If he wants to take your book and turn it into a movie — as well as cast himself as the star — it's a gift from the gods.

He has the money, power, and clout to make anything happen.

But the one thing Cruise doesn't have?

Height.

Which is a big problem when you're supposed to be portraying Jack Reacher, the epically popular character of the Lee Child novels, who is written as six-foot-five with ice-blue eyes, dirty blond hair and tipping the scales at 240 pounds.

That does not one Tom Cruise make.

"A lot of the book fans were so upset that they weren't going to get a facsimile of Reacher on the screen," says Jim Grant at a recent press conference to promote the new film, Jack Reacher, which is based off his ninth Reacher novel, One Shot. (Lee Child is his pen name.)

"Tom Cruise isn't a big guy, sure, but portraying the inside of Reacher was so much more important," Grant said in his English lilt.

"It comes down to talent, of which there are a very limited number of people who have that level of talent and technique."

The uproar that someone who is five foot seven was tapped to play Reacher — a character who has helped to sell 60 million copies of books — reached Twilight-message-board levels of hysteria.

Grant noted that while he's happy his fans care so much, they have to understand that there aren't really any actors out there that size — a fact he knows first hand.

"In 100 years, we haven't had an actor of that size. The camera can't deal with that large of a physicality," he says.

"People said, 'What about Hugh Jackman?' Well, I was just on a plane with Hugh Jackman, and he's smaller than me and I'm smaller than Reacher. It just won't happen."

Child has published seventeen Jack Reacher novels — the 18th is out next year — and he promises that what he's seen on the screen won't influence what he writes on the page (meaning Reacher won't magically shrink and become a brunette).

"I've seen that happen, but don't worry, I've got 17 books out before the movie, soon to be 18," he notes.

"The character is so secure, nothing will replace him. To me, it's very clear in my own head that the characters in the books and movies are related, but one doesn't replace the other. The movie doesn't cancel the books or vice versa."

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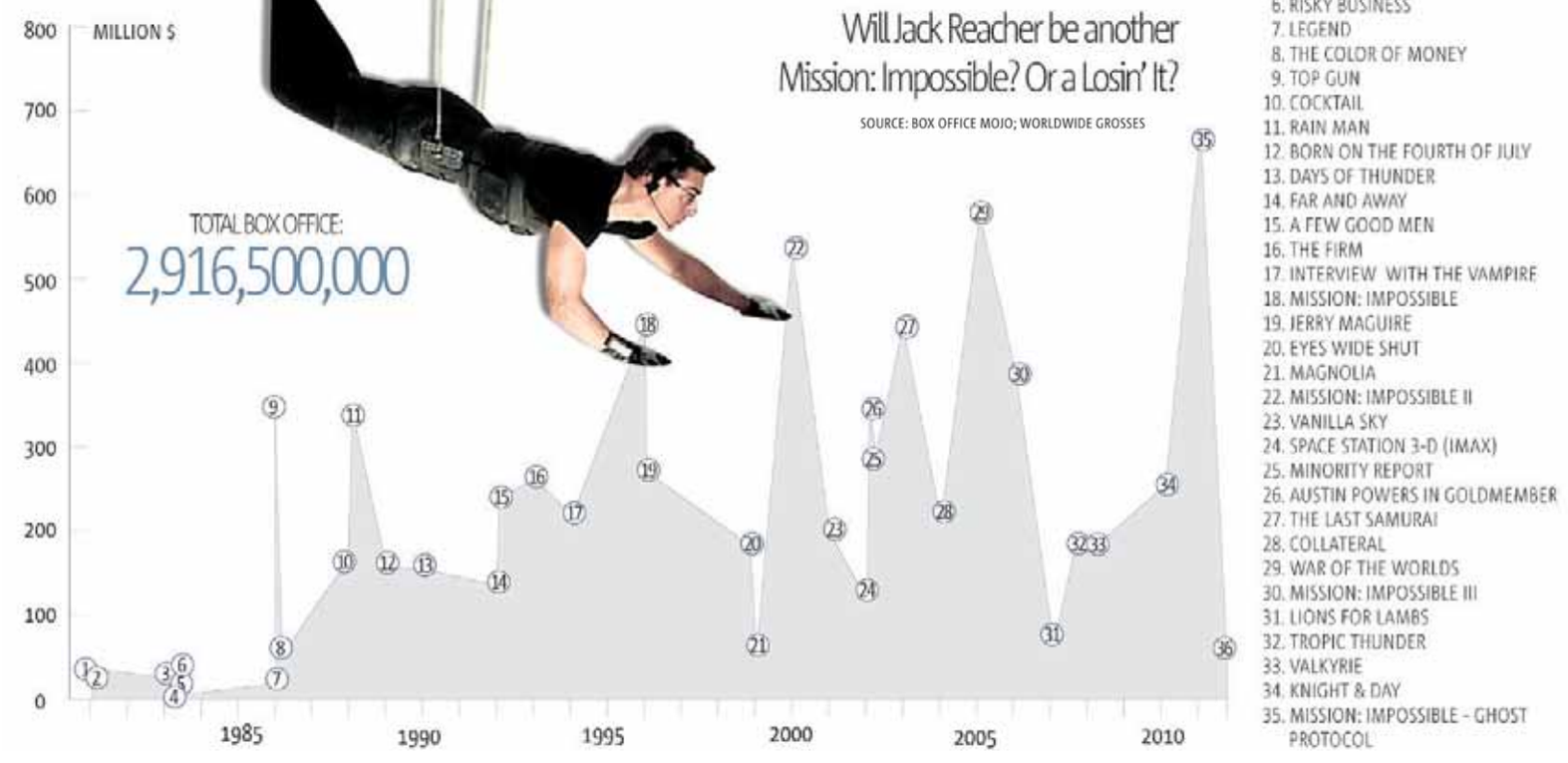

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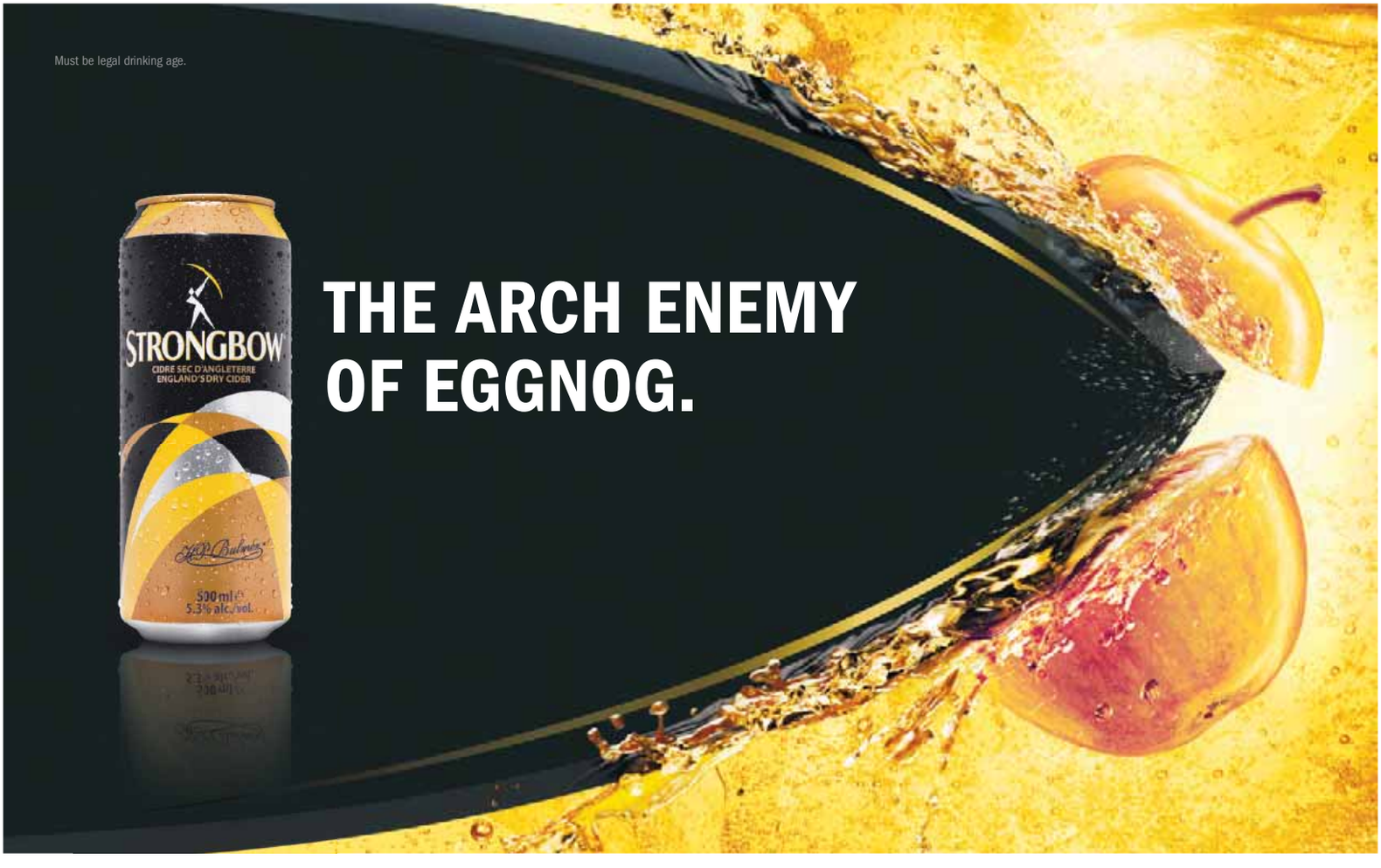

She's still rolling: Adele voted as AP Entertainer of the Year

Banner year. Singer finishes out 2012 with another award, beating out PSY, Twilight cast, Taylor Swift and author E.L. James

Quoted

"There was an overwhelming embrace of Adele and her music. And that was never more evident to me than when I heard teenagers express their enthusiastic expectations for the new James Bond movie because Adele performed the theme song."

Joe Butkiewicz

Though Adele didn't have a new album or a worldwide tour in 2012, she's still rolling. After a year of Grammy glory and James Bond soundtracking, Adele has been voted The Associated Press Entertainer of the Year.

In 132 ballots submitted by members and subscribers of the AP, Adele easily outpaced other vote-getters like Taylor Swift, Fifty Shades of Grey author E.L. James, the South Korean viral video star PSY and the cast of Twilight.

Editors and broadcasters were asked to cast their ballot for the person who had the most influence on entertainment and culture in 2012.

Adele's year began in triumph at the Grammys, took a turn through recording the theme to the 007 film Skyfall and ended with the birth of her son in October. The ubiquitous Adele was that rare thing in pop culture — an unqualified sensation, a megastar in a universe of niche hits.

By the end of the year, her sophomore album, 21, had passed 10 million copies sold in the U.S., only the 21st album in the Nielsen SoundScan era (begun in 1991) to achieve diamond status. Buoyed by hits like Someone Like You and Rolling in the Deep long after its release in early 2011, 21 was also the top-selling album on iTunes for the second year running.

As David Panian, news editor for Michigan's Daily Telegram, put it: "It just seemed like you couldn't turn on the radio without hearing one of her songs."

Women have had a lock on the annual Entertainer of the Year selection. Previous winners include Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Betty White and Tina Fey. Stephen Colbert is the lone male winner in the six-year history of voting.

The Grammy Awards in February were essentially the de facto crowning of the 24-year-old Adele, whose real name is Adele Adkins, as a pop queen. She won six awards, including album of the year. It was also a comeback of sorts for Adele, who performed for the first time since having vocal cord surgery, drawing a standing ovation from the Staples Center crowd.

Accepting the album of the year award, a teary Adele exclaimed: "Mum, girl did good!" The emotional, sniffling singer endeared many viewers to her when she copped in her acceptance speech to having "a bit of snot."

"This record is inspired by something that is really normal and everyone's been through it, just a rubbish relationship," said Adele.

But her luck in love has since turned, thanks to her boyfriend Simon Konecki. In an interview with Vogue magazine, Adele said she was through with breakup records and done being "a bitter witch."

When Adele announced in June that she was having a baby with Konecki, her website promptly crashed under the heavy traffic. Their son was born in October.

With such an avalanche of success and now a mother of a newborn son, Adele has understandably taken a step out of the spotlight.

One notable exception was recording the opening credits theme song to Skyfall. The song was recorded with her 21 producer Paul Epworth at the Abbey Road Studios in London with a 77-piece orchestra. Within hours, it zoomed to the top of digital charts.

"There was an overwhelming embrace of Adele and her music," said Joe Butkiewicz, executive editor of the Times Leader in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. "And that was never more evident to me than when I heard teenagers express their enthusiastic expectations for the new James Bond movie because Adele performed the theme song."

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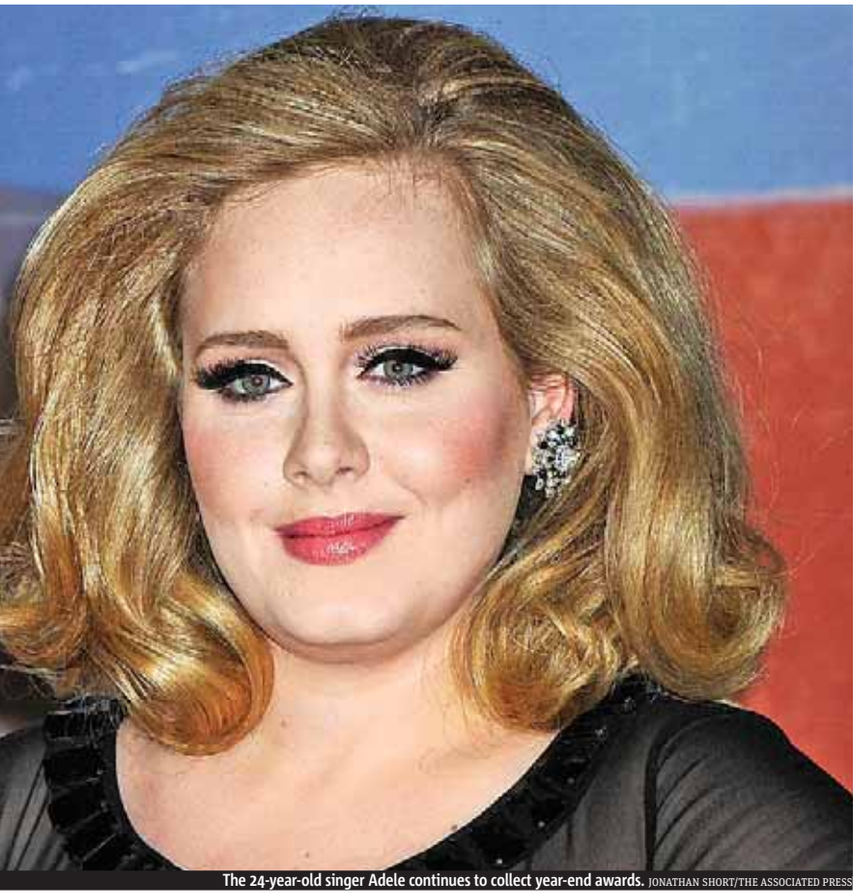

The 24-year-old singer Adele continues to collect year-end awards. JONATHAN SHORT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Kristen Stewart ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

K-Stew's sorry for her cheatin' heart

Kristen Stewart knows she's upset more than a few fans over the course of her Twilight tenure — especially since her summer cheating scandal. "I apologize to everyone for making them so angry. It was not my intention," the actress tells Newsweek. "It's not a terrible thing if you're either loved or hated. But honestly, I don't care because it doesn't keep me from doing my s—." And as for the hugely successful vampire franchise coming to an end? "The only relief when it comes to Twilight is that the story is done," she admits.

Angelina Jolie

Angelina Jolie dusts off her director's hat

Angelina Jolie is set to return to the director's chair, choosing to adapt Laura Hillenbrand's Second World War survival story, Unbroken, as her second film, according to E! News. The story follows Louis Zamperini, an air force pilot who survived a crash and spent most of the war in a Japanese prison camp. "I read Laura Hillenbrand's brilliant book and I was so moved by Louis Zamperini's heroic story, I immediately began to fight for the opportunity to make this film," Jolie says. Her directorial debut, In the Land of Blood and Honey, focused on the Bosnian war.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

The year of the lost locks — femmes who took it all off

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

No more long locks for these ladies. Whether it was for a role of a lifetime or to bring awareness to a cause, here are some haircuts that turned heads this year.

Who: Anne Hathaway
Why: The actress had to shave her head for her role as the prostitute Fantine in Les Misérables.
Current length: Short. "I love the short-haired lifestyle," Hathaway says in the December issue of Vogue. "I'm turning 30, and — I hope this isn't obnoxious to say — I feel prettier, and much more myself. I guess I just feel much more satisfied with less now."

Who: Charlize Theron
Why: Theron's shaved head is courtesy of her latest film role, Mad Max: Fury Road.
Current length: Still shaved.

Who: Kellie Pickler
Why: The American Idol singer got a buzz cut to support her best friend, Summer Miller, who had to undergo chemotherapy while being treated for breast cancer.
Current length: Growing out a tad. "We made a pact from the get-go that we would shave our heads together," Pickler told E! Online about sharing the look with her best pal. "And we did."

Who: Miley Cyrus
Why: Who knows. Probably because she's aching to be seen as more "edgy" than her Disney roots.
Current length: It's not so much talking about length as it is talking about the crazy. As she wrote on Twitter when she originally lost the locks, "Never felt more me in my whole life."

Kate Middleton

Kate Middleton determined to make the Royal Christmas

Despite her recent pregnancy-related hospitalization, Kate Middleton is vowing to put on a brave face for the Royal Family's Christmas dinner, according to Radar Online. "Kate doesn't want to disappoint the Queen, nor does she want to skip on her duties," a source says.

"She feels she is obliged to appear at the annual Christmas dinner and doesn't want to let anyone down." Her husband, though, is offering an out. "William has his concerns though that she won't be up to it, and told Kate she shouldn't worry if she feels too sick to attend and that no one will judge her negatively," the source adds. "But Kate isn't having it and is determined to be at the dinner, smiling as always."

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The Carly Rae kiss

The Call Me Maybe singer breaks down the craft of the smudge-free make-out, her Ryan Gosling crush and why she'd never play spin the bottle with Justin Bieber

ROMINA McGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

As she promotes her new album, Kiss, we asked Carly Rae Jepsen about makeup application and the art of making out, because we figured she must be an expert at it by now.

Putting the makeup on...
"For a press event, I need one hour for my hair and makeup. But if it's just for me, I literally need 10 minutes. My grooming process has become shorter and shorter in my off-days. I like getting glammed up for the red carpet, but then being able to wear no makeup and be in flannel for a camping weekend. I'm like, 'Take me as I am.'"

The spin the bottle test. Ryan Gosling — yay or nay?
"I've always had a thing for Ryan Gosling. I don't think I'm alone in that! There's not one movie of his that I haven't liked. It's his personality. I've never met him, but the characters he plays are very charming."

And Justin Bieber?
"He's my friend, that would be too strange. We would never play that game together!"

On making out
"I've always had fairly pleasant experiences, but not, like, a lot of them! Kissing is all about how you feel about the person. If you have no chemistry, it can be totally meaningless. But if you have the right amount of flare, then it can be a really magical moment. I don't know if I'm a good kisser. I hope so."

Video

Watch Carly Rae Jepsen give a tutorial on how to kiss without smudging your lipstick on metronews.ca

Inside her makeup bag

Carly Rae Jepsen opens up her purse to show us two products she can't get through the day without

MAC Lipstick in Lady Danger

"I'm obsessed with this. It's a statement piece. It's kind of like an orangey red, but the perfect shade of it. It's a good pick-me-up if you have to get dolled up fast."

Marc Jacobs Daisy Eau de Parfum

"I'm really picky with scents. I can get sick of them after a day or two. Daisy has been one that I've really hung on to. It's not too domineering, really pleasant and kind of subtle. It feels really fresh every time I spray it on."

Holiday party skin savers

These are two products to turn to when the party starts showing up on your face

KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

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A Very Matthew Williamson Christmas

Gift guide. 2012 was a big year for the designer who celebrated the 15th anniversary of his eponymous line. He tells us how he plans to reflect on it all during the holidays.

KENYA HUNT
life@metronews.ca

"I'm a huge fan of a traditional Christmas dinner," says Matthew Williamson. He usually spends the holiday at his parents' house in Manchester, England, where he'll be headed in a week.

"There'll be some big family meals, walks and games," he explains. But his fantasy Christmas looks more like an episode of Downton Abbey with some old Bob Hope specials mixed in.

"(My dream Christmas) would be cooked by mum, of course — a turkey with all the trimmings. My family, all of my closest friends and their children would be there. We'd be in the grand dining room at Aynhoe Park, which is this stately home in Oxfordshire, with a roaring fire going and deer in the snow outside the window," he adds. "Perhaps Bing Crosby or Frank Sinatra would drop by for a song or two. Ok, I'm getting a little carried away now." He fills us in on what he plans to give — and hopes to receive — this month.

The Top 3 things he's hoping for...

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"Smells are so evocative. I love how they can add such a luxurious touch to any room."
$54, ciretrudon.com

Posen on the Runway

Can you deal with Zac? American designer to bring knowledge of craft to Project panel

Zac Posen is officially "in" on Project Runway — he'll be the new featured judge, filling the chair Michael Kors sat in for the show's first 10 seasons.

"This was an amazing opportunity," Posen said. "I hope I'm here to give a new perspective to the designers."

Kors isn't "out" — as host Heidi Klum likes to say to the fashion-design contestants who get the boot on the granddaddy of fashion reality TV shows. His schedule didn't allow a commitment, but he will come back as a guest judge for the season finale, according to a statement for Lifetime TV.

Zac Posen.
EVAN AGOSTINI / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Posen said he learned from Kors. "When I was a guest judge, I saw he was always a generous, warm mentor."

Posen's best skill to offer the contestants is his sharp eye, he said.

It's Klum's role in the new lineup to bring the voice of the woman who might be the eventual customer. Nina Garcia, the fashion director at Marie Claire, has her editorial eye, and Posen analyzes the specifics of the design, he said.

The Project Runway season starts Jan. 24.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Vancouver

Ann Nguyen

Sales manager at Lynn Steven

Age: 31

What she's wearing
Aritzia toque, Oak + Fort coat, Wilfred Free T-shirt, Rachel Comey shoes

Her inspiration
"I'm constantly in a creative state of mind, so I like clothes that are comfortable, functional and at the same time, an outfit that moves with me.

THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: M'C KENNETH LICON, LITTLEFASHIONISTO.COM

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM, AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
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@Jeanne_Beker: Sweet to have carollers @TorontoPearson Apparently you tweet them traveller's name, flight # + date of arrival + the carollers greet them!

@MaryamRitzy
awesomeee!

@BeeLeeMon
@torontopearson that's amazing!!!!!! Wish I was traveling now.

@misstraceynolan
@torontopearson That is very cool!

@mavicanada
that's so fun and festive!

@Jeanne_Beker: Canadian glamour!! Krystal Koo co-chair of Sparkle, Ronald McDonald fund-raiser, in @PavoniOfficial

@Jeanne_Beker: On my way to @CTVCanadaAM to judge gingerbread houses! What makes a GOOD gingerbread house?

@BeeLeeMon
Imperfection! :)

@Jeanne_Beker: Face Time @theloopca @BeckermanBlog @TonyChapman + @ssheffman @ shopeluxe Talking online shopping!

@Jeanne_Beker: With Frank Toskan, founder of @MACcosmetics at the Ronald McDonald House fund-raiser at The Carlu

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Is this the last supper?

A bite of Belize. This country was once home to the ancient Mayans, who are said to have predicted the end of the world on Dec. 21. If that's the case, go out with a full stomach

"Cochinita (small pig) pibil (to bury) literally translates to 'buried whole suckling pig,'" write the editors of Flavors of Belize magazine in their book of the same name about this recipe.

"Traditionally, you should marinate the pork in the same manner but cook the whole pig wrapped in banana leaves underground with fire wood and hot stones for hours until tender."

This recipe by Chef Sean Kuylen can also be cooked in a slow cooker, on low for 12 hours or on high for six hours.

Ingredients

- 5 lbs pork shoulder or pork leg, bone in
- 1 head garlic
- 1 1/2 tbsp salt
- 2 tsp cumin
- 1 1/2 tsp allspice
- 1 1/2 tbsp freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp red recado, diluted to form paste
- 1/2 cup sour orange juice
- Smoked banana leaves
- 2 medium onions, quartered
- 2 medium green bell peppers, quartered
- 1/4 cup cilantro, minced

1. Preheat oven to 325 F. Pierce pork with knife and insert garlic cloves all around.

2. Mix all dry ingredients; combine with recado, diluted in orange juice and coat pork. Marinate overnight.

3. Place pork in large roasting pan lined with banana leaves. Add onion, sweet pepper and place cilantro on top. Pour remaining marinade liquid and add more water to pan to approximately 1 inch high. Cover with banana leaves and seal tightly with foil.

4. Bake for 5 hours or until meat is very tender and starts to release from the bone. Shred pork and serve on warm corn tortillas topped with pickled red onions or habanero salsa.

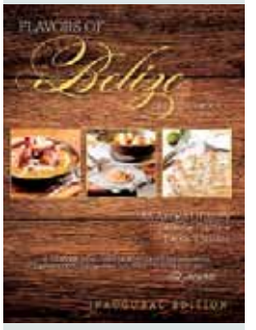
Pureco Cochinita Pibil

This recipe serves eight. MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

ALL RECIPES ON THIS PAGE FROM FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK (MCNAB PUBLISHING LTD)

Cookbook of the Week

Dine like the Mayans



Published by McNab Publishing Ltd., Flavors of Belize includes a selection of soups and starters, main dishes and delectable desserts. Additionally, this cookbook hosts a variety of submissions from some of Belize's most renowned chefs and cooks. Each section opens with a brief explanation of the different cultures, whose history acts as the foundation of Belizean heritage. This colourful gastronomic guide delivers more than 120 recipes spanning cultures including the Maya, British, Mestizo, Creole, Chinese, Lebanese, Garifuna and more.

Dukunu. In ancient Mayan culture, corn was considered a gift from gods

"In ancient Maya culture, corn represented much more than a grain used for food," write the editors of Flavors of Belize magazine in their cookbook. "Corn was also considered a gift from the gods and cultivating it was a sacred duty. In fact, according to the sacred book of the Maya, (Popol Vuh), the gods created humans from corn."

Ingredients

- 10 to 12 green corn on the cob, shucked
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup coconut milk
- 2 tbsp butter, melted
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp sugar
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1. Peel corn, reserving clean husks. Purée corn with water in a blender. Pour into a large mixing bowl and mix with the remaining ingredients.

2. Place 1/4 to 1/3 cup mixture onto the centre of each reserved husk. Bring sides together, making sure to overlap and fold pointed end upward. Secure each with string.

3. Place 2 to 3 inches of water in sauce pot, bring to a boil and arrange dukunu folded side down. Boil for about 1/2 hour. Remove from husk and serve.

MATT ARMENDARIZ FOR FLAVORS OF BELIZE: THE COOKBOOK

Outstanding value in Milton

Traditions is surrounded by ample green space with conservation areas, golf courses and parks. HANDOUT

Meet the condo

- **What.** Village at Traditions
- **Builder.** Heathwood Homes
- **Location.** Milton
- **Website.** heathwood.com
- **Sizes.** From 1,481 - 1,587 sq. ft.
- **Pricing.** $417,900 to $437,900

Project overview

Traditions in Milton continues to attract buyers who appreciate outstanding value in a one-of-a-kind location. Set against the striking Niagara Escarpment, Heathwood Homes' warm, inviting, award-winning neighbourhood is master planned to offer residents a high quality of life.

Location and transit

The community is located on Main Street West at Bronte Street and is close to the Milton GO rail station. Commuters can be in Toronto's downtown core within the hour. Drivers will enjoy the convenience of the nearby 401 and 407 Highways.

In the neighbourhood

Traditions is surrounded by ample green space with several conservation areas, golf courses and parks. It's family-friendly, with schools nearby. Close to shopping, including a Metro, Food Basics and a Shoppers Drug Mart. Nearby is the Pasqualino Café & Bistro and Ned Devine's Irish Pub.

Amenities

Finishes range from vintage oak-strip hardwood floors to granite countertops and hand-stained oak stairs. Robindale layout includes raised breakfast bar, great room, kitchen with separate island and a welcoming breakfast area. Master bedroom includes a luxurious ensuite and convenient walk-in closet.

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4.99%	SCOTIA	3.10%
5.24%	TD	3.20%
5.24%	NATIONAL	3.20%
2.84%	BROKER	2.60%

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BILD

Associate members rise to the podium for 2012's awards

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

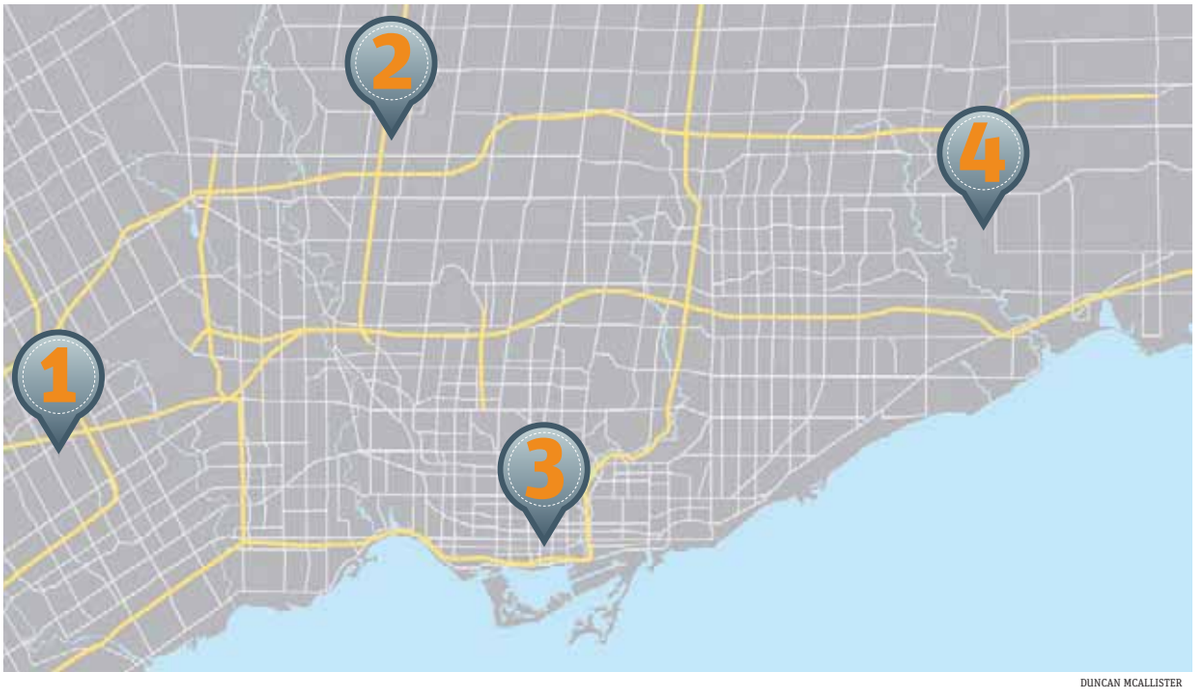
BILD's presentation of the 2012 Associate Awards was recently held at our Annual General Meeting and I would like to use this space to congratulate three outstanding member companies for their contribution to the industry in 2012.

Delivering a new home or renovation project is a big job that requires a lot of help from our associate members, who work in the service, contracting, manufacturing and supply end of the industry. This is why in 2004, BILD created the Associate Awards.

These awards honour members for their quality, service, professionalism, leadership and innovation when working together with a developer, builder or renovator on delivering a new home or renovation project.

The really unique thing about these awards is that nominees are judged by their clients — the builders, developers and renovators — as opposed to a panel of judges because customer satisfaction plays a vital role in determining the quality, service and professionalism put forth by a company.

What's hot on the condo market



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2. Richmond Hill

Open house

Richmond Hill Dynasty condo, 20 Harding Blvd. W., Dec. 22 from 2 to 4:30 p.m.
CALL 905-883-8300

3. Downtown

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CALL 416-966-0197 OR VISIT THEMASSEYTOWER.COM

4. Eastend

Flaire Presentation Centre

Porsche Design pop-up shop, at the Shops at Don Mills, 6 Pabst Lane. Dec. 22 to 23 from 12 to 6 p.m.
416-445-8868 OR VISIT FLAIRECONDOS.COM

Don Mills becoming a condo Mecca

Emerging trend. The neighbourhood is a hot commodity when it comes to new development

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

Don Mills is one of Toronto's emerging condominium neighbourhoods. Multiple new projects are underway in this busy, central location of the city.

The Dream Tower condos is the third phase of the Emerald City community by ELAD Canada. It is conveniently located across from the Fairview Mall at Don Mills and Sheppard Ave. The 25-storey tower with 316 suites boasts granite countertops, flat-panelled contemporary cabinets, a deep soaker tub and chrome fixtures.

Further down the street at York Mills, Tridel's Argento is well under construction. The complex will consist of a 26-storey tower with 290 suites and nine town homes. The property was once farmland and sits on top of a hilly plateau that rises above the Don Ravine.

Located at the intersection of Don Mills and Lawrence is The Shops At Don Mills, ringed by The Donway circular roadway. The Shops is a unique concept in residential communities in a retail mall setting, a collaboration between Cadillac Fairview and the FRAM Building Group. First came the mall — an eclectic mixture of high-end fashion outlets, restaurants, a movie theatre and premium grocery market.

You really couldn't call it a mall. It's actually more like a streetscape, modelled after the U.S. concept of open-air "streets" with premium outlets surrounding a town square at the centre of it all. The three mid-rise buildings span the southwest end of the complex, with plans for several more high-rises to the east. Reflections is mostly sold out. Liv Lofts is an existing building that has been converted into lofts, and Flaire is the newest project set for ground-breaking in the new year.

Metro spoke with Tibi Popa at the Flaire presentation centre, who says that The Shops, with its open-air concept, is a first of its kind in Canada. What kind of condo buyer would live at The Shops at Don Mills? If you like shopping, this is your place, but there's also a vibrant nightlife here that you won't find at say, Fairview Mall just up the street.

"A lot of young professionals work around here. It is very vibrant here at night. There's a lot of exclusive restaurants that do stay open later into the evening, so you can experience a little bit more of the predominant nightlife," says Popa. "Also empty nesters, people that have been in the area for a long time, and their kids are off to school. Now they're sitting on their equity so they're looking to downsize." The Shops has some very unique retailers, including the first P.F. Chang's China Bistro in Canada. Fisker automobiles has their first showroom in Ontario here, with two of the sleek new Karma electric sports cars prominently displayed in the window. The $6 million McEwan gourmet grocery store is a concept by celebrity chef Mark McEwan, one of the judges on Top Chef Canada — think Pusateri's on steroids.

The stores in Don Mills create this unique kind of shopping mall. HANDOUT

Quoted

"A lot of young professionals work around here. It is very vibrant here at night. There's a lot of exclusive restaurants that do stay open later into the evening..."

Tibi Popa, Flaire presentation centre

Legal Matters

Fire Hazards

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

Question: Last Christmas, we purchased a natural tree and put it up in our house. We were rudely awoken one night before Christmas with the fire alarm going off and had to hustle our kids out of the house. The problem was when the fire inspector determined that we had overloaded the plugs with the lights and our tree appeared to be tinder dry. We are still talking to our insurance company, although they were forthcoming with most of the money to settle the claim. Any advice? **Answer:** Not that people normally read their insurance policies, but there are provisions which are not covered. A dried out tree loaded down with lights and sockets that are bursting with extensions sounds like a recipe for disaster. This is certainly more of an insurance matter than a legal one, but you need to consider the repercussions of your policy and what it will and will not cover.

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Classic gifts for the pickiest decorator

Imagine having the task of buying a Christmas present for someone who not only has it all, but seemingly has great taste and knows what they like. That's what my family and friends run up against every Christmas — trying to buy me something I don't already have or will like enough to have in my home. Truth be told, designers are probably the simplest to buy for, as long as you don't give short-lived trend items. By keeping the choices classic and useful, your gift will be a hit with your favourite design aficionado. Here's a few that topped my wish list this holiday season. Some cost as little as a dollar and some hundreds. I'd love all of them under my tree this year, Mr. Santa...

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

The fuzzy feeling

Whether it be real or faux, a fur throw slung over a chair or end of the bed has always made a luxurious statement in the home. From year to year the fur colours change (this year it's pale browns and greys), and there is always an animal print in fashion. Take a cue from designer Brian Gluckstein and his collection of throws (with a handsome leather carry handle) and live like a designer. Faux Fur Throw, $149, thebay.com.

Clink, clink on the cheap

Nothing breaks the mood of a fancy party than having to use the wrong glass when toasting a celebration. And trust me, using a wine glass to serve champagne does not impress anyone who is style conscious. I like to stock up on glass ones and have plenty of them. My go-to store is the Dollarama. Glass Champagne Flutes, $1, dollarama.com.

A simple touch

A decorative box can sit handsomely on a front foyer table to hold keys, coins and cards, or on a dresser to hold jewelry, pens and keepsakes in the bedroom. The Agresti Gold Leaf Box adds simple lines and a subtle gold shine to decorate any table or dresser top. $795, birks.com.

Crystal accent

The classic round shape of the rose bowl (or goldfish bowl, as it's commonly called) is perfect for flowers. Three rose bowls in a row creates a modern appeal down the centre of a dining table or on a mantel. Tiffany's Floral Vine Rose Bowl holds a dozen red roses, a candle and more, $330, tiffany.ca.

Light it up

There is no decorator out there that doesn't like candles, and even better are a collection of candles on a tray. It's the perfect centrepiece on a dining table, coffee table or in the bath. Inexpensive candles mean filling the tray without breaking the bank. Glade Winter Collection Candles, $5.50 each, glade.ca.

Charger chic

Decorate the simplest of china by adding a layer of silver underneath. Charger plates create instant shimmer and luxury to a dinner party table. Add cool silver shine and the natural imprint of woodgrain with charger plates from President's Choice, $10 for 4. loblaws.ca.

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A festive feast with a small footprint?

Can my festive holiday feast also have a small footprint?

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

The holiday season is about family, community, celebration … and food! Delicious food. The house is filled with rich, tantalizing scents. For the youngest at the table, this is the stuff that memories are made of. The rest of us are carried back to our own childhoods and find ourselves as giddy as the little ones.

The most festive of holiday feasts are both delicious and sustainable — a joyous combination that's within everybody's reach. And while that perfect balance is something of considerable debate, a few simple steps will elevate your table to one worthy of the love you bear for friends and family.

Step #1: Waste not, want not

Canadians produce an estimated $27 billion in food waste every year, and half of that is household food. That's not festive! Cook an appropriate amount of food for the size of your gathering, and plan for the leftovers.

Step #2: Cook from scratch

The closer you start to raw ingredients, the more nutritious and the more sustainable your meal is likely to be. Before you reach for the BPA-lined can of cranberry sauce or the packet of gravy mix, ask yourself, "Can I make this from scratch?" The answer is a resounding yes.

Step #3: Buy local and organic

Organic food does cost more. That's because it's more expensive to produce than conventional alternatives, which we often subsidize with environmental sacrifice and long-term health costs. But since you're now committed to not wasting any food, and to cooking from scratch, you're going to save so much money you can probably offset the cost of buying more sustainable options.

Step #4: Avoid serving GMO

Unlike most of Europe, Canada does not require labelling of foods containing genetically modified ingredients. Certified organic foods cannot, by definition, contain GMO ingredients. Outside of those parameters, buy carefully. The good news for your holiday feast is that there are no GMO varieties of wheat, potatoes or root vegetables on the market. However, beware of conventional canola oil or soy derivatives. In the last 10 years, genetically modified varieties of both these popular processed food ingredients have all but taken over. Organizations like The Non-GMO Project have resources to help you make informed choices.

Step #5: Savour the goodness

You've poured time, energy and love into creating a meal that brings family and friends together. Enjoy it!

The butler responds

To be or not to be — on your lap: The napkin, examined

When travelling by train or plane and eating while in motion, does the rule change for the placement of the dinner napkin or must it always be on your lap?
Mr. Curious

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Technically, the only place a napkin should go is on your lap. ISTOCK PHOTO

Dear Mr. Curious;
Well this is such a great question because, technically, the napkin is only supposed to ever go in one place — your lap. However, with every rule, one must always know the correct way of when and how to break it. Yes, while in motion on a train or airplane, the napkin can absolutely and unequivocally go from your lap to the dreaded shirt collar. Although many would gasp at seeing such a thing, you can tuck a dinner napkin in your shirt collar at any table when in motion. You are, after all, trying to stay clean.

In fact, in the golden era of plane travel, the dinner napkin used to have a small button hole in one of the four corners of the napkin so that you could do just that and hang your napkin to avoid spills and stains while eating in motion.

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Hip Shakin' in Cuba
Dance in Cuba is a perfect representation of its mix of cultures. Cuban-style salsa is set apart by its sensual nature; partners often break to tease each other without making contact. Originally a street dance in Cuba, the conga line is rooted in carnival music or derived from African slave celebrations. In the 1950s, a dance teacher brought the cha-cha-cha back to England where it spiraled into an international hip shaking craze. Test out your moves when you visit!
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NHLPA waiting on NHL to resume talks: Fehr

Lockout. League not sure progress can be made at this point

Donald Fehr says the NHL Players' Association is ready to get back to the bargaining table at any moment.

He's just waiting for the NHL to feel the same way.

"(We aren't talking) because the owners have not indicated a desire to resume," the NHLPA's executive director said Wednesday night before a charity game. "We've indicated any number of times that we're willing to resume when they are (and) we're willing to resume without preconditions.

"So we're waiting to hear back from them."

The sides haven't negotiated with one another since Dec. 6 in New York, when talks broke down. They also met with a U.S. federal mediator for two days in New Jersey last week and reported no progress.

From the NHL's perspective, negotiations should only resume once there is something new to say.

"I don't think either party is refusing a meeting," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in an email. "But unless there is an indication one side or the other is prepared to move or has a new idea to move the process forward — and so far neither side has indicated — I am not sure what we would do at the meeting.

"What is the agenda? Who is directing the conversation?"

Fehr indicated that he liked the idea put forward by Winnipeg Jets defenceman Ron Hainsey that the same parties who met two weeks ago return to the bargaining table, plus himself and commissioner Gary Bettman. Progress was made during a session that included four new owners and a number of players, including Sidney Crosby.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"We don't have anything new to say right now."

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly on the status of negotiations. Daly created a stir earlier in the day when he made an appearance on CBC's HNIC Radio and was asked to give a simple yes or no answer on whether there would be an agreement in time to save the season. He responded "yes."

Taking back Stanley?

Reclaiming cup not on GG's mind

The Stanley Cup may have been created by the office of Canada's Governor General — but don't count on the current office-holder to take the trophy back.

Gov. Gen. David Johnston chuckled when asked whether the prospect of a cancelled season could prompt him to reclaim Canada's beloved relic.

Edmonton MP Brent Rathgeber has suggested the cup could be awarded in a competition to determine the best non-pro team in Canada. Also, one of the cup's full-time guardians recently said it would be "exciting" to have a mock tournament if the season is cancelled. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos release safety Boulay

The off-season house cleaning continues for the Toronto Argonauts.

The Argonauts released veteran safety Etienne Boulay on Wednesday, one day after cutting loose veteran kicker/punter Noel Prefontaine.

Boulay, a Montreal native, joined the Argos in the off-season and started 13 regular-season games for the club, registering five special-teams tackles.

He played in all three of Toronto's post-season games, including the Argos' 35-22 win over Calgary in the 100th Grey Cup. He made one special-teams tackle and one defensive tackle in the championship match.

The Argos also re-signed defensive lineman Donte Paige-Moss and signed linebacker Shane Horton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Raptors on the rise: Toronto extends win streak to 4 games

Toronto Raptors forward Mickael Pietrus drives to the hoop between Detroit Pistons centre Greg Monroe, left, and forward Jason Maxiell on Wednesday in Toronto. Pietrus scored seven points as the Raptors beat the Pistons 97-91 for their fourth straight win. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tebow talk turns to possible CFL sojourn

To Tebow or not to Tebow.

That's the CFL question.

With the New York Jets electing to bypass quarterback Tim Tebow as starter Mark Sanchez's replacement for Sunday's game, there has been plenty of speculation and rumours out of the NFL that he might just leave and try tossing footballs next season in Canada.

Tim Tebow GETTY IMAGES

Apparently, his negotiation rights are now held by the Montreal Alouettes, who just signed 40-year-old Anthony Calvillo to a new two-year contract.

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats used to have the former first-round NFL draft pick's negotiating rights but dropped him during the season.

Negotiating rights are secret in the CFL so it's only speculative that Montreal has them right now. But sources suggest they do.

Several CFL teams need a quarterback, Winnipeg for one. But even if the Jets release him, chances are some other NFL team will take a shot at him.

Tebow hasn't started a single game since being traded to the Jets from Denver in the off-season.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NFL

Authorities finish Belcher investigation

Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher apparently was worried he would lose his baby and money to his long-time girlfriend before fatally shooting her and killing himself, according to newly released police reports.

Belcher also complained about Kasandra Perkins, the mother of the couple's three-month-old daughter, in conversations and text messages sent to a woman he was dating on the side, the reports show.

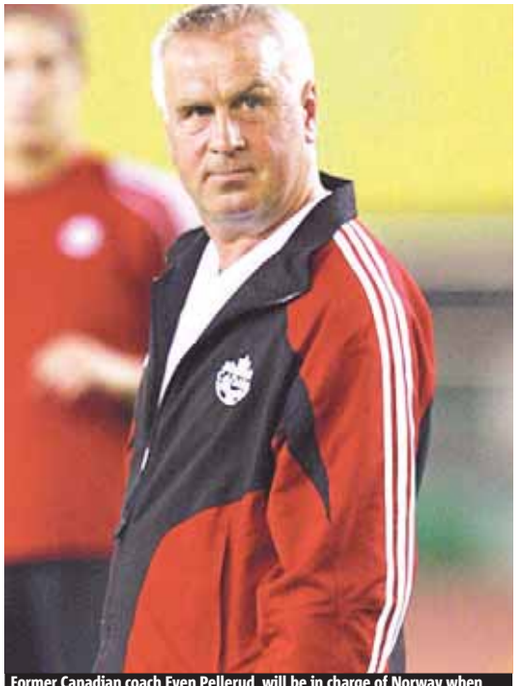
In one text message from late October or early November, Belcher wrote he "would shoot" Perkins "if she didn't leave him alone." The girlfriend told police that Belcher said "his child's mother threatened to take all his money and his child if they split up."

Belcher shot Perkins multiple times in their home on Dec. 1 and then drove to team headquarters, where he killed himself in front of his coach and general manager.

The Jackson County prosecutor's office reviewed the police reports, which first were obtained by the Kansas City Star, before closing the case Friday. It formally ruled the deaths of Belcher, 25, and Perkins, 22, a murder-suicide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Norway's national soccer team looks to get Even against Canada



Former Canadian coach Even Pellerud will be in charge of Norway when it faces our national team at the Four Nations women's soccer tournament in China next month. KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four Nations. Pellerud looks to rekindle his homeland's lost glory at upcoming tournament

When Canada plays Norway at the Four Nations women's soccer tournament in China next month, a familiar face will be standing in front of the opposition bench.

Former Canadian national team coach Even Pellerud is back at the Norway helm, as of Jan. 1.

"I told my daughters the other day I will be playing against a team whose players I know much better than my own (Norwegian) players," he said.

The other teams at the Jan. 10-17 Four Nations are host China and host South Korea.

Norwegian football officials had been talking to Pellerud about another position like technical director, but he was appointed coach after a staff reorganization

Norway has had mixed results in recent years, failing to qualify for the London Olympics and exiting after the first round of the 2011 Women's World Cup. Norway is currently ranked 12th in the world, to Canada's seventh.

"Norway used to be top-ranked and there has been a slide down ever since.... There is a desire to come back — inside the women's program, in the Norwegian Football Federation," said Pellerud.

Under Pellerud's guidance, the Norwegian women won the 1993 European championship, the 1995 World Cup and a bronze at the '96 Olympics.

Pellerud stepped down as Canada coach after leading the team to the quarter-finals of the 2008 Olympics.

He guided Canada to ninth in the world in the FIFA rankings and also led it to a fourth-place finish in the 2003 World Cup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"He's a great tactician. He's got his style of play and it's effective."

Canadian women's soccer coach John Herdman talks about Canada's former bench boss, Even Pellerud.

Champions League draw. Barcelona and Vilanova set to learn of last-16 fate

Champions League favourite Barcelona and nine-time European champion Real Madrid are among nine former winners in the last-16 draw on Thursday.

Barcelona will find out its opponent as coach Tito Vilanova, who has led his team to a record start of 15 wins in 16 Spanish-league matches, undergoes surgery on this throat before beginning a course of chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

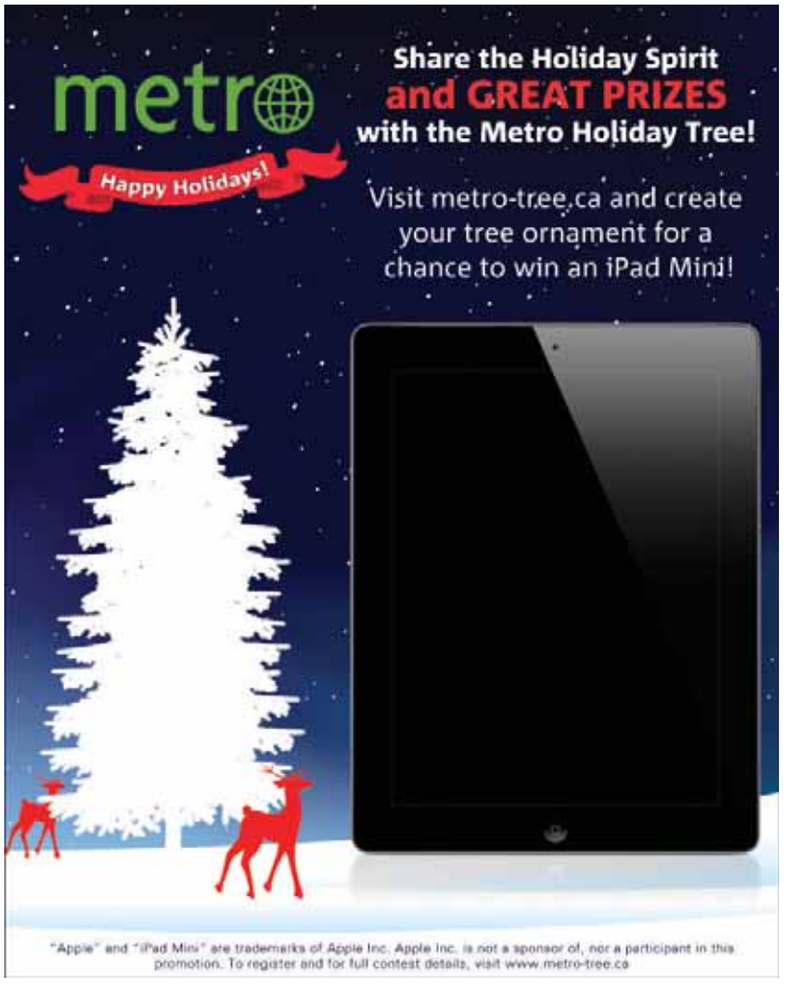
The club said Wednesday that 44-year-old Vilanova's treatment is expected to last six weeks until just ahead of the next Champions League fixtures in mid-February.

Barcelona, Madrid — and their star forwards, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo — are joined in the draw by Champions League debutant Malaga and Valencia in a show of Spanish supremacy.

England's recent dominance of world football's most prestigious club competition has faded, and only Manchester United and Arsenal will represent the Premier League.

Seeded clubs: Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Juventus, Malaga, Manchester United, Paris Saint-Germain, Schalke. **Unseeded clubs**: AC Milan, Arsenal, Celtic, Galatasaray, Porto, Real Madrid, Shakhtar Donetsk, Valencia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Star striker Lionel Messi and Barcelona will find out their next Champions League opponents in Thursday's last-16 draw. JASPER JUINEN/GETTY IMAGES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NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	18	6	.750	—
Miami	16	6	.727	1
Atlanta	15	7	.682	2
Chicago	14	10	.583	4
Milwaukee	13	10	.565	41/2
Brooklyn	13	11	.542	5
Indiana	13	12	.520	51/2
Boston	12	12	.500	6
Philadelphia	12	13	.480	61/2
Orlando	11	13	.458	7
Charlotte	7	17	.292	11
Toronto	7	19	.269	12
Detroit	7	20	.259	121/2
Cleveland	5	21	.192	14
Washington	3	19	.136	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	20	4	.833	—
L.A. Clippers	18	6	.750	2
Memphis	16	6	.727	3
San Antonio	19	8	.704	21/2
Golden State	17	8	.680	31/2
Denver	14	12	.538	7
Utah	14	12	.538	7
Minnesota	12	11	.522	71/2
Houston	12	12	.500	8
Dallas	12	13	.480	81/2
Portland	11	12	.478	81/2
L.A. Lakers	12	14	.462	9
Phoenix	10	15	.400	101/2
Sacramento	7	17	.292	13
New Orleans	5	19	.208	15

Division leaders ranked in top three positions and best eight teams qualify for playoffs

Wednesday's results
Utah at Indiana
Detroit at Toronto
Brooklyn at New York
Washington at Orlando
Oklahoma City at Atlanta
Cleveland at Boston
Philadelphia at Houston
Charlotte at Phoenix
Milwaukee at Memphis
Golden State at Sacramento
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's results
Toronto 113 Cleveland 99
Atlanta 100 Washington 95 OT
Utah 92 Brooklyn 90
Miami 103 Minnesota 92
Chicago 100 Boston 89
Milwaukee 98 Indiana 93
Dallas 107 Philadelphia 100
Denver 112 San Antonio 106
L.A. Lakers 101 Charlotte 100
Golden State 103 New Orleans 96

Thursday's games
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Miami at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 10 p.m.

Friday's games
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Orlando at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Memphis, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

RAPTORS 113, CAVALIERS 99

TORONTO (113)
Calderon 10-15 0-0 23, Anderson 6-12 1-2 18, Johnson 6-7 5-5 17, DeRozan 4-9 8-8 16, Lucas 4-7 1-1 11, Kleiza 2-6 6-7 10, Valanciunas 3-6 2-4 8, Davis 2-7 0-0 4, Pietrus 1-4 0-0 3, Ross 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 39-75 23-27 113.

CLEVELAND (99)
Irving 9-16 3-5 23, Varejao 5-12 12-16 22, Gee 6-8 2-3 15, Miles 4-7 3-3 13, Thompson 5-8 0-1 10, Waiters 4-13 0-2 8, Gibson 2-3 0-0 6, Zeller 1-2 0-0 2, Walton 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 36-70 20-30 99.

Toronto	22	27	29	35 —113
Cleveland	29	24	23	23 — 99

3-Point Goals—Toronto 12-24 (Anderson 5-7, Calderon 3-6, Lucas 2-3, Pietrus 1-3, Kleiza 0-3, Ross 1-1, DeRozan 0-1). Cleveland 7-16 (Irving 2-5, Miles 2-4, Gibson 2-3, Waiters 0-2, Gee 1-1, Walton 0-1). **Rebounds—**Toronto 36 (Valanciunas 7, Johnson 6, Anderson 6, DeRozan 5, Calderon 5, Davis 4, Kleiza 1, Lucas 1, Ross 1). Cleveland 33 (Varejao 10, Thompson 9, Gee 4, Miles 4, Irving 3, Zeller 2, Gibson 1). **Assists—**Toronto 25 (Calderon 6). Cleveland 19 (Irving 7). **Total Fouls—**Toronto 24, Cleveland 26.
A—13,233. T—2:18

AHL

Wednesday's result
Abbotsford at Chicago
St. John's at Adirondack
Springfield at Portland
Norfolk at Hershey
Albany at Bridgeport
Toronto at Lake Erie
Rochester at Grand Rapids
W-B/Scranton at Binghamton
Rockford at Milwaukee
San Antonio at Texas

Tuesday's result
Peoria 4 Hamilton 3 (SO)

Thursday's games
All Times Eastern
Houston at Lake Erie, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Charlotte, 7 p.m.

Friday's games
Connecticut at Manchester, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Peoria at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Abbotsford at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Binghamton at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Worcester at Providence, 7:05 p.m.
St. John's at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
Albany at Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.
Adirondack at Syracuse, 7:30 p.m.
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Texas at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.

SOCCER

SCOTLAND

DIVISION 3
Tuesday's result
East Stirlingshire 2, Montrose 2

DFB POKAL

THIRD ROUND
Tuesday's results
Bochum 3, 1860 Munich 0
Borussia Dortmund 5, Hannover 1
Stuttgart 2, Cologne 1
Wolfsburg 2, Bayer Leverkusen 1

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE — Suspended free agent minor league RHP Kyle Pelchy 50 games for refusing to take an off-season drug test.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with 1B Travis Ishikawa, LHP Daniel Schlereth and LHP Zach Braddock on minor league contracts.
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Ryan Dempster on a two-year contract. Designated RHP Pedro Beato for assignment.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Designated OF Russ Canzler for assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Joe Martinez and C Brian Jeroloman on minor league contracts.
DETROIT TIGERS — Released LHP Adam Wilk. Assigned LHP Matt Hoffman outright to Toledo (EL).
HOUSTON ASTROS — Named Meg Vail-lancourt vice president of community relations and executive director of the Astros In Action Foundation. Traded LHP Rob Rasmussen to the L.A. Dodgers for RHP John Ely.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with OF Ichiro Suzuki on a two-year contract. Designated RHP Jim Miller for assignment.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Traded LHP Jason Vargas to the L.A. Angels for 1B/DH Kendrys Morales.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Agreed to terms with 2B Lance Zawadzki on a minor league contract. Claimed RHP Mickey Storey off waivers from Houston.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Named Steve Sax first base coach and Turner Ward assistant hitting coach. Named Greg Gross hitting coach of Reno (PCL); Andy Green manager and Jacob Cruz hitting coach of Mobile (SL); Bill Plummer manager and Gil Heredia pitching coach of Visalia (Cal); Jason Camilli hitting coach of South Bend (MWL); Robby Hammock manager, Doug Bochtler pitching coach and Wilson Valera hitting coach of Missoula (Pioneer); and Luis Urueta manager of the Arizona League Diamondbacks.
COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with LHP Jeff Francis on a one-year contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Alfredo Figaro on a minor league contract.

FRONTIER LEAGUE

LAKE ERIE CRUSHERS — Named Jeff Isom manager.
RIVER CITY RASCALS — Signed 1B Mike Bando and 3B Jason Taylor to contract extensions.
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINERS — Sent LHP Nick Cicio and LHP Darrin Tew to Rockford to complete an earlier trade.
TRAVERSE CITY BEACH BUMS — Signed 2B Ryan Still to a contract extension. Released LHP Bennett Whitmore. Exercised the 2013 contract options on LHP Nick Capito, RHP Jason Mattila, RHP Scott Dunn, RHP Brooks Belter, RHP Michael Devine, RHP Jacob Clem, RHP Scott Mueller, RHP Jake Sabol, C Travis Higgs, C Marcus Nififfer, INF Jose Vargas, INF Kyle Eveland, INF Chase Burch, INF Jeff Flagg, INF Sean Gusrang, OF Kyle Colligan, OF Matt Howard, OF Brian Heere, RHP Reid Kelly and RHP Kurt Wunderlich.

NFL

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released TE Steve Skelton from the practice squad.
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Released LB D.J. Bryant from the practice squad. Signed RB Lonyae Miller to the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR Kevin Elliott and LB Brian Smith to the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed C Zack Williams on injured reserve. Signed G Hayworth Hicks from the practice squad.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed G Reggie Stephens to the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed TE George Bryan to the practice squad.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Released DE Robert Rose from the practice squad.
DETROIT LIONS — Placed CB Jacob Lacey on injured reserve. Signed CB Rob Bartell. Signed DB Ross Weaver to the practice squad. Placed DT Nick Fairley on injured reserve. Signed DT Ogemdi Nwagbuo.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Signed CB Otis Merrill to the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released G Robert Griffin from the practice squad. Signed T Lee Ziemba to the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Placed RB Daniel Thomas on injured reserve. Signed DB Julian Posey from the practice squad.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Placed CB Corey White on injured reserve. Signed WR Saalim Hakim from the practice squad.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Placed TE Clay Harbor on injured reserve.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Reinstated RB Rashard Mendenhall from the suspended list. Placed G Willie Colon and CB DeMarcus Van Dyke on injured reserve. Signed DB Justin King.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed LB Kyle Knox and DE Monte Taylor to the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed TE Drake Dunsmore and LB Joe Holland to the practice squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Released LB Kourtnei Brown from the practice squad.

CFL

TORONTO ARGONAUTS — Released S Etienne Boulay. Re-signed DL Donte Paige-Moss. Signed LB Shane Horton.

AHL

ALBANY DEVILS — Loaned C Phil DeSimone to Trenton (ECHL).
BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS — Signed F Scott Campbell to a professional tryout contract.

MLS

CHICAGO FIRE — Announced the resignation of president Julian Posada.
D.C. UNITED — Re-signed D Robbie Russell.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	4	0	.714	506	315
N.Y. Jets	6	8	0	.429	255	320
Miami	6	8	0	.429	264	279
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	306	402

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	12	2	0	.857	394	280
Indianapolis	9	5	0	.643	309	358
Tennessee	5	9	0	.357	285	396
Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	219	383

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	348	307
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	355	293
Pittsburgh	7	7	0	.500	302	291
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	280	310

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	11	3	0	.786	409	274
San Diego	5	9	0	.357	299	312
Oakland	4	10	0	.286	263	402
Kansas City	2	12	0	.143	195	367

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	8	6	0	.571	381	350
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	327	338
N.Y. Giants	8	6	0	.571	373	304
Philadelphia	4	10	0	.286	253	375

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	371	259
New Orleans	6	8	0	.429	389	379
Tampa Bay	6	8	0	.429	354	349
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	296	319

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	10	4	0	.714	344	292
Minnesota	8	6	0	.571	319	308
Chicago	8	6	0	.571	321	240
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	330	380

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	10	3	1	.750	357	218
Seattle	9	5	0	.643	350	219
St. Louis	6	7	1	.464	258	315
Arizona	5	9	0	.357	224	302

x — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division.

WEEK 16

Saturday's game — All Times Eastern
Atlanta at Detroit, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday's games
Minnesota at Houston, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Oakland at Carolina, 1 p.m.
San Diego at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
New England at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Dallas, 1 p.m.
St. Louis at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Miami, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Baltimore, 4:25 p.m.
Chicago at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.
San Francisco at Seattle, 8:20 p.m.

WEEK 17

Sunday, Dec. 30
Tampa Bay at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Green Bay at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Miami at New England, 1 p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Washington, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Denver, 4:15 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
Note: Sunday night game to be determined
END OF REGULAR SEASON

HOCKEY

2013 CANADIAN WORLD JUNIOR HOCKEY TEAM ROSTER

Roster for the Canadian junior hockey team for the 2013 world junior championship Dec. 26-Jan. 5 in Ufa, Russia:

GOALTENDERS
Jordan Binnington, Richmond Hill, Ont., Owen Sound (OHL); Jake Paterson, Mississauga, Ont., Saginaw (OHL); Malcolm Subban, Toronto, Belleville (OHL).

DEFENCEMEN
Dougie Hamilton, Toronto, Niagara (OHL); Scott Harrington, Kingston, Ont., London (OHL); Ryan Murphy, Aurora, Ont., Kitchener (OHL); Xavier Ouellet, Terrebonne, Que., Blainville-Boisbriand (QMJHL); Griffin Reinhart, West Vancouver, B.C., Edmonton (WHL); Morgan Rielly, West Vancouver, B.C., Moose Jaw (WHL); Tyler Wotherspoon, Surrey, B.C., Portland (WHL).

FORWARDS
Anthony Camara, Toronto, Barrie (OHL); Phillip Danault, Victoriaville, Que., Victoriaville (QMJHL); Jonathan Drouin, Huberdeau, Que., Halifax (QMJHL); Jonathan Huberdeau, St-Jerome, Que., Saint John (QMJHL); Charles Hudon, Boisbriand, Que., Chicoutimi (QMJHL); Boone Jenner, Dorchester, Ont., Oshawa (OHL); JC Lipon, Regina, Kamloops (WHL); Nathan MacKinnon, Cole Harbour, N.S., Halifax (QMJHL); Ryan Nugent-Hopkins, Burnaby, B.C., Oklahoma City (AHL); Ty Rattie, Airdrie, Alta., Portland (WHL); Brett Ritchie, Orangeville, Ont., Niagara (OHL); Mark Scheifele, Kitchener, Ont., Barrie (OHL);Ryan Strome, Mississauga, Ont., Niagara (OHL).

HEAD COACH
Steve Spott, Waterloo, Ont., Kitchener (OHL)

ASSISTANT COACHES
Mario Duhamel, St-Bruno, Que., Drummondville (QMJHJ), Don Nachbauer, Prince George, B.C., Spokane (WHL); Andre Tourigny, Nicolet, Que., Rouyn-Noranda (QMJHL).

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For YOUR scrap Cars & Trucks!

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FREE TOWING

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This Free Service is Available to:

Post-Secondary Students, Recent Grads, Secondary Students in you final year

- Are you at least 17 years of age?
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Many Last Minute Gifts and Stocking Stuffers Available!

Sat. & Sun, 10am-5pm

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Indian Famous Astrologer Mr Jagadish

Pandit is specialist in all kinds of Astrology

He solves your all problems

Marriage, Business, Job, Enemy, Sexual, Family, Children Health, Love, Depression, Obaau, Vodoo etc.

100% Guarantee

I CAN HANDLE ANY PROBLEM

Remove Black Magic and Bad Luck in 2 Days and gives immediate protection

All Religious Welcomed

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Unique Spiritual Healer

PANDIT: RAVI SHANKAR

The Pandit is Expert in treating Black Magic, Voodoo, Jadoo, Evil Spirits, Obeau & Bad Luck.

Solves Problems like Love, Money, Family, Health, Children, Jealousy

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If you have problems I have Solutions

Removes Black Magic & get Blessings by God Prayers Also Performs Poojas for all Problems 100% Guaranteed

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Solutions for your all Problems

Love, Marriage, Money, Family Busines, Children, Education, Health, Court, Divorce, Jealousy

He will Remove & Destroy all Bad Luck, Negativity, Black Magic, Witchcraft,Evil Spirits, Voodoo, Obeya & Gives Protection

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Reunite lovers forever
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LOOKING TO MAKE A CAREER CHANGE?

Read metrowork every Monday & Wednesday.

NEED COOL DESIGN TIPS?

Read metrohome every Thursday.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun joins Mars, your ruler, in the career area of your chart tomorrow, so you will be even more ambitious than usual. Impress those in positions of power but try not to do so at the expense of other people.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You are up for whatever life throws at you and when the Sun changes signs tomorrow, there will no holding you back. However, after your initial burst of enthusiasm you will need to settle into a steady routine.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may at times seem as if the answers are "out there" waiting to be discovered but in reality they are "in here", where facts mean less than feelings. Take time to listen to your inner voice today — it has lots to tell you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Don't worry too much if you have not been getting along with a certain person of late because you will soon be friends again. You will also find that your opinions were not nearly as far apart as you had previously believed.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You need to get serious about your work and your health. Because everything has been going so well for you of late, you have tended to overlook certain things but now it's time to take care of those boring details.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Do something creative, something that gets you noticed. Everyone was born with an ability of some kind, so focus on your own special talent and make it work for you on all kinds of levels, including financial.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The next few days are going to be of added importance for family matters. You will certainly find it easier than usual to see the world through loved ones' eyes. Better understanding makes compromise possible.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
However hard you try, you will not change another person's viewpoint. And however hard they try, they will not change yours. So what can you do? You can steer clear of each other as much as is humanely possible.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Over the next few days, your thoughts will turn to what you own, what you earn and, more importantly, how you can start earning more. Get rid of a dozen ideas but the one that remains will make you rich.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The old solar year is coming to an end and when the Sun moves into your birth sign tomorrow, a new cycle will begin. After the disappointments of recent weeks, it will feel wonderful to know that all things are possible.

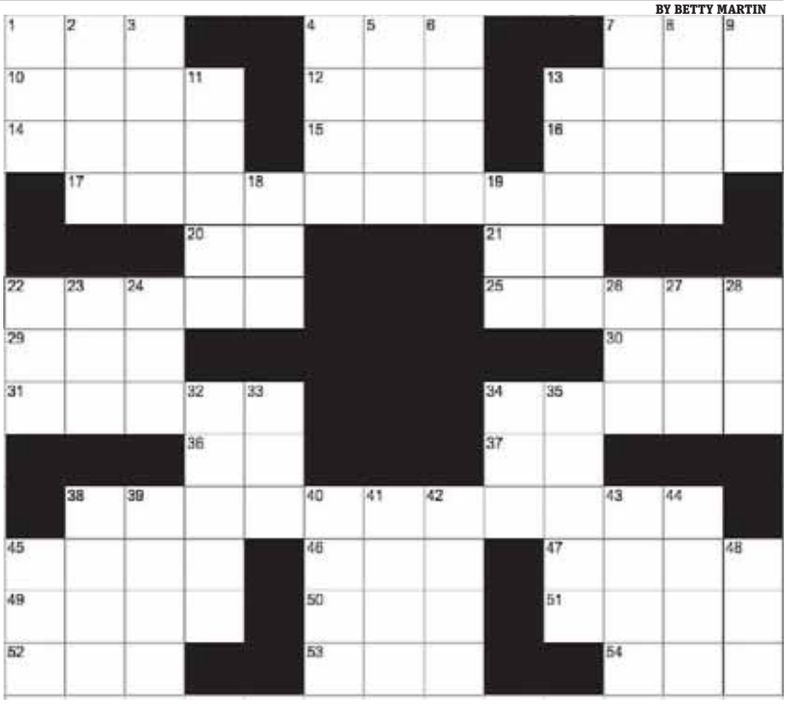
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Get away for a while. Leave the chaos and confusion of everyday life far behind. Before you go, let someone know that you do not exist to cater to their every whim. You have needs too and they must be satisfied.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Recent cosmic activity has made it possible for you to move up in your work or career. Now you must decide if you are happy with what you accomplished or if you want to go higher still. It's your choice.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

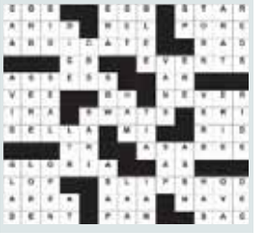
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Vestment
4. Keyboard key
7. Nickname of comedian Bill
10. One not to be trusted
12. Havana greeting
13. — 70's Show
14. Thin Man's dog
15. Soup container
16. Rodents
17. Stargazers
20. Movie alien
21. Egyptian Sun God
22. Touched by an Angel actress
25. Carry in inventory
29. Pester
30. "Norma —"
31. Tempest
34. Beautify
36. Battery sz.
37. Head out
38. Ethel's partner in hijinks
45. Pitch
46. Gobbled up
47. Tiny amount
49. Police activity
50. Cartoon pooch
51. Barbershop sound
52. Hill dweller
53. CPR specialist
54. Opposite of WNW

Down
1. Chicken – King
2. One of The Simpsons
3. Belfry inhabitants
4. Filled tortilla
5. Star of M*A*S*H
6. U2's lead vocalist
7. Cinders
8. Bran source
9. Ave. crossers
11. Hotel fees
13. Halloween indulgence
18. Road abbr.
19. Robinson or Doubtfire
22. Found in the ER
23. Have a bite
24. Self
26. Gold, to Juan
27. My Mother the —
28. Olin of thirtysomething
32. Participated in a marathon
33. Spring mo.
34. Turkish title
35. Roberts of Everybody Loves Raymond
38. Bank transaction
39. Kind of price
40. Steak order
41. Ledger entry
42. Penny
43. Completed
44. Soul singer Redding
45. La-la lead-in
48. Mimic

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

	8		6		2		3	
		3	4		1	8		
9								7
		5		1		2		
3								4
		4		3		7		
5								1
		6	8		3	5		
	4		1		9		8	

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	9	3	4	7	1	2	8
3	8	4	2	1	5	9	7	6
1	7	2	9	8	6	3	5	4
5	3	7	1	6	9	8	4	2
9	4	1	5	2	8	6	3	7
8	2	6	4	7	3	5	1	9
7	9	5	6	3	2	4	8	1
2	1	3	8	9	4	7	6	5
4	6	8	7	5	1	2	9	3

Today
4°/-1°
Rain
70%
Friday
4°/-3°
Rain and snow
80%
Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD.
Check your local listings for details.
The Weather Network | HD
TWN incorporates MSC data

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0%† FINANCING + UP TO $10,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ +

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ON SELECT MODELS

2013 ELANTRA

GET UP TO

$2,000 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $15,480♦

ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS^Ω

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

HWY: 5.2L/100 KM
CITY: 7.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

HWY: 5.6L/100 KM
CITY: 8.7L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SONATA

GET UP TO

$3,500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 48 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $22,200♦

SONATA GL AUTO. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS^Ω

THE MOST FUEL-EFFICIENT FULL-SIZED CAR – NATURAL RESOURCE CANADA'S 2012 ECOENERGY VEHICLE AWARD◊

HWY: 6.7L/100 KM
CITY: 10.1L/100 KM

Limited model shown

2013 SANTA FE

GET UP TO

$1,150 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTS‡ WITH 0%† FINANCING FOR 24 MONTHS

FRIENDS & FAMILY SELLING PRICE $27,245♦

SANTA FE 2.4L FWD AUTO. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS HST.

DON'T PAY FOR 90 DAYS^Ω

2013 AJAC BEST NEW SUV (OVER $35K)

5 YEAR WARRANTY
100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY††

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto with an annual finance rate of 0%/0%/0% for 24/48/24 months. Bi-weekly payment is $298/$214/$524. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $0/$0/$0. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760 fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance Offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Sonata GL Auto for $22,200 (includes $3,500 price adjustment) at 0% per annum equals $214 bi-weekly for 48 months for a total obligation of $22,200. Cash price is $22,200. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,565, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Example price excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Sonata GL Auto (HWY 5.6L/100KM; City 8.7L/100KM)/2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. †♦Friends & Family prices for models shown (includes $2,000/$3,225/$1,250 in price adjustments): 2013 Elantra Limited/Sonata Limited/Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD is $22,830/$27,475/$39,145. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,565/$1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ♦Friends & Family Selling Prices are calculated against the starting price less all factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments). Friends & Family Selling Prices include Delivery and Destination, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST), and exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ‡Factory to dealer price adjustments (including Friends & Family price adjustments) are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Factory to Dealer Price adjustments of $2,000/$3,500/$1,150 available on 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Sonata GL Auto/Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto. Factory to dealer price adjustments are applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. Ω0 payments for up to 90 days (payment deferral) is available on new in-stock 2012 Sonata Hybrid, 2013 Accent 4 Door/Accent 5 Door/Elantra Sedan/Elantra GT/Sonata/Santa Fe models and only applies to purchase finance offers on approved credit. If payment deferral is selected the original term of the contract will be extended by 2-months/56-days for monthly/bi-weekly finance contracts. Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. will pay the interest of the deferral for the first 2-months/56-days of the monthly/bi-weekly finance contract. After this period interest will start to accrue and the purchaser will pay the principal and interest monthly/bi-weekly over the remaining term of the contract. Ω†♦‡Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ◊Based on Natural Resource Canada's 2012 ecoEnergy award for most fuel efficient full-size car. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.